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🔍 Title: **JP2002169973A2: SYSTEM OR METHOD FOR IMAGE DISTRIBUTION  
RECORDING MEDIUM THEREOF**

🔍 Derwent Title: Image distribution system using Internet for mobile communication terminal, has system server to choose undelivered image from background image file group [\[Derwent Record\]](#)

🔍 Country: **JP Japan**

🔍 Kind: **A2 Document Laid open to Public inspection**

🔍 Inventor: **SUZUKI HIDEO;**

🔍 Assignee: **CASIO COMPUT CO LTD**  
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🔍 Priority Number: **2000-12-01 JP20000000366440**

🔍 Abstract: **PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED:** To sequentially distribute only a fresh image which is matched with taste of the user and not distributed in the past according to the agreement contents of a contract for utilizing distribution services when an image for the interior having a high hobby property is distributed by way of a network.

**SOLUTION:** A system server 1 memorizes and manages the contract contents for every user having the contract for utilizing the distribution services. When each image for the interior for each contract user is sequentially selected from background image file groups and distributed to a home server 2 automatically, the image for the interior that is not distributed in the past is distributed preferentially. The home server 2 displays each image for the interior that has been distributed sequentially from the system server 1 to a specified window device.

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🔍 Family: **None**

🔍 Other Abstract Info: **[DERABS G2002-524109](#)**

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**JP2002169973**

Publication Title:

**SYSTEM OR METHOD FOR IMAGE DISTRIBUTION, OR RECORDING  
MEDIUM THEREOF**

Abstract:

Abstract of JP2002169973

**PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED:** To sequentially distribute only a fresh image which is matched with taste of the user and not distributed in the past according to the agreement contents of a contract for utilizing distribution services when an image for the interior having a high hobby property is distributed by way of a network. **SOLUTION:** A system server 1 memorizes and manages the contract contents for every user having the contract for utilizing the distribution services. When each image for the interior for each contract user is sequentially selected from background image file groups and distributed to a home server 2 automatically, the image for the interior that is not distributed in the past is distributed preferentially. The home server 2 displays each image for the interior that has been distributed sequentially from the system server 1 to a specified window device.

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(71) 出願人 000001443

カシオ計算機株式会社

東京都渋谷区本町1丁目6番2号

(72) 発明者 鈴木 秀夫

東京都羽村市栄町3丁目2番1号 カシオ

計算機株式会社羽村技術センター内

(74) 代理人 100073221

弁理士 花輪 義男

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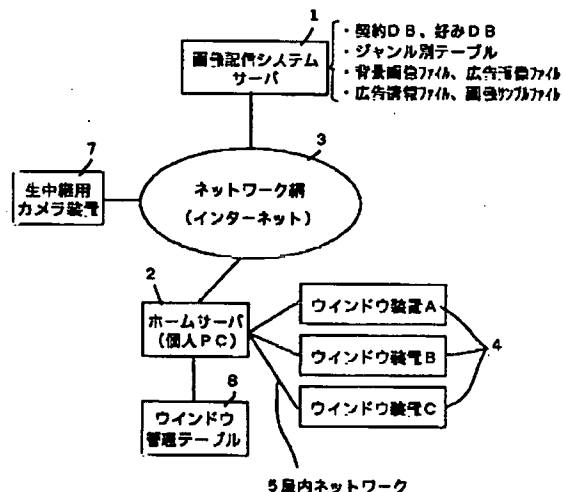
PQ02 PQ44 PR08 UU40

(54) 【発明の名称】 画像配信システムまたは画像配信方法または画像表示制御端末若しくはそれらのプログラム記録媒体

(57) 【要約】

【課題】 趣味性の高いインテリア用画像をネットワーク経由で配信する際に、配信サービスの利用契約を行った契約内容通りに、その利用者の好みに合い、過去に配信していない新鮮な画像のみを順次配信するようにする。

【解決手段】 システムサーバ1は、配信サービスの利用契約を行った契約ユーザ別にその契約内容を記憶管理しておき、背景画像ファイル群の中から各契約ユーザ向けの各インテリア用画像を順次選択してそのホームサーバ2へ自動配信する際、過去に配信されていないインテリア用画像を優先的に配信する。ホームサーバ2は、システムサーバ1から順次配信されて来た各インテリア用画像を指定のウィンドウ装置へ表示出力させる。



画像配信システム

## 【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】ネットワークを介して画像配信サービスを行う画像配信装置を備えてなる画像配信システムであって、複数のインテリア用画像を記憶管理する画像記憶手段と、配信サービスの利用契約を行った各契約ユーザに対して配信すべきインテリア用画像を選択して、当該各契約ユーザが指定した指定端末へ配信した際に、配信したインテリア用画像の配信履歴を契約ユーザ別に記憶管理する配信履歴記憶手段と、前記各契約ユーザに対してインテリア用画像を順次配信する際に、前記配信履歴記憶手段を参照し、過去に選択していないインテリア用画像を契約ユーザ別に選択して、当該各契約ユーザが指定した指定端末へ配信する配信制御手段と、を具備したことを特徴とする画像配信システム。

【請求項2】ネットワークを介して画像を配信する画像配信方法であって、配信サービスの利用契約を行った各契約ユーザに対して配信すべきインテリア用画像を選択して、当該各契約ユーザが指定した指定端末へ配信した際に、配信したインテリア用画像の配信履歴を契約ユーザ別に記憶管理し、前記各契約ユーザに対してインテリア用画像を順次配信する際に、前記配信履歴を参照し、過去に選択していないインテリア用画像を契約ユーザ別に選択して、当該各契約ユーザが指定した指定端末へ配信するようにしたことを特徴とする画像配信方法。

【請求項3】前記各インテリア用画像は、その種類を示す画像ジャンルに対応付けて分類管理されており、前記各契約ユーザに対して順次配信すべき各インテリア用画像を選択して配信する際に、その契約内容に画像ジャンルが指定されている場合には、その指定ジャンルに属する各インテリア用画像群の中から抽出したインテリア用画像を配信し、契約内容に画像ジャンルが指定されていない場合には、任意の画像ジャンルを選んで、そのジャンルに属する各インテリア用画像群の中から抽出したインテリア用画像を配信する、ようにしたことを特徴とする請求項1記載の画像配信システムまたは請求項2記載の画像配信方法。

【請求項4】前記インテリア用画像の配信を受けた前記指定端末から当該画像の登録要求がネットワークを介して送信されて来た場合に、その要求に回答して当該インテリア用画像をその指定端末対応の登録画像として記憶保持しておき、当該指定端末から登録画像の配信要求を受けた場合に、この指定端末対応の登録画像を読み出して要求元の端末へ配信する、ようにしたことを特徴とする請求項1記載の画像配信システムまたは請求項2記載の画像配信方法。

【請求項5】前記インテリア用画像の配信を受けた前記指定端末から生映像の配信要求がネットワークを介して送信されて来た場合に、当該配信済みのインテリア用画像を撮影した場所に設置されている撮影装置から生中継映像を取得し、前記撮影装置から取得した生中継映像を

要求元の前記指定端末へリアルタイムに配信する、ようにしたことを特徴とする請求項1記載の画像配信システムまたは請求項2記載の画像配信方法。

【請求項6】ネットワークを介して画像配信サービスを行う画像配信装置を備えてなる画像配信システムであって、画像の種類を示す画像ジャンルに対応付けて複数のインテリア用画像を分類して記憶管理する画像記憶手段と、配信サービスの利用契約を行った契約ユーザ別にその契約内容を記憶管理する配信契約記憶手段と、前記各契約ユーザに対して、その契約内容にしたがって順次配信すべき各インテリア用画像を選択する際に、その契約内容として指定されている画像ジャンルに基づいて当該ジャンル対応のインテリア用画像を選択し、この選択したインテリア用画像をその契約内容として指定されている配信時間間隔で前記指定端末へ配信する配信制御手段と、を具備したことを特徴とする画像配信システム。

【請求項7】ネットワークを介して画像を配信する画像配信方法であって、前記各契約ユーザに対して、その契約内容にしたがって順次配信すべき各インテリア用画像を選択する際に、その契約内容として指定されている画像ジャンルに基づいて当該ジャンル対応のインテリア用画像を選択し、この選択したインテリア用画像をその契約内容として指定されている配信時間間隔で前記指定端末へ配信する、ようにしたことを特徴とする画像配信方法。

【請求項8】ネットワークを介して画像配信サービスを行う画像配信装置を備えてなる画像配信システムであって、複数のインテリア用画像を記憶管理する画像記憶手段と、配信サービスの利用契約を行った契約ユーザ別に契約内容を記憶管理する配信契約記憶手段と、前記各契約ユーザに対して配信すべきインテリア用画像を選択する際に、その契約内容として複数画像の同時配信が指定されている場合には、その契約数分のインテリア用画像を選択して、当該契約ユーザが指定した指定端末へ配信した後、前回の配信から所定時間の経過を検出した際に、当該契約ユーザに対して未配信の契約数分のインテリア用画像を選択して、前記指定端末へ配信する配信動作を繰り返す画像配信手段と、を具備したことを特徴とする画像配信システム。

【請求項9】ネットワークを介して画像を配信する画像配信方法であって、配信サービスの利用契約を行った各契約ユーザに対して配信すべきインテリア用画像を選択する際に、その契約内容として複数画像の同時配信が指定されている場合には、その契約数分のインテリア用画像を選択して、当該契約ユーザが指定した指定端末へ配信した後、前回の配信から所定時間の経過を検出した際に、当該契約ユーザに対して未配信の契約数分のインテリア用画像を選択して、前記指定端末へ配信する配信動作を繰り返す、ようにしたことを特徴とする画像配信方法。

【請求項10】公衆ネットワークを介して画像を配信するサービスを行う画像配信システムに接続されていると共に、屋内ネットワークを介して複数の表示装置に接続されているサービス利用者側の画像表示制御端末であって、画像配信サービスの利用契約に応じて配信されて来た複数のインテリア用画像を受信する受信手段と、この受信手段によって受信した各インテリア用画像毎にその転送先を指定して、前記複数の表示装置へ対応するインテリア用画像を転送する画像転送手段と、を具備したことを特徴とする画像表示制御端末。

【請求項11】前記複数の表示装置へ対応するインテリア用画像を転送する毎に、その転送した画像識別情報をその転送先に対応付けて記憶管理する識別情報記憶手段と、前記複数の表示装置のうち、そのいずれからの表示要求を受信した際に、前記識別情報記憶手段を検索することによって、その要求元の表示装置に現在表示されているインテリア用画像を特定して、その画像識別情報を取得する識別情報取得手段と、を設け、この識別情報取得手段によって取得した画像識別情報を前記画像配信システムへ送信し、前記要求元の表示装置に対して未配信のインテリア用画像あるいは画像関連情報が前記画像配信システムから配信されて来た際に、この未配信のインテリア用画像あるいは画像関連情報を当該要求元の表示装置へ転送する、ようにしたことを特徴とする請求項10記載の画像表示制御端末。

【請求項12】前記インテリア用画像は、動画の再生が可能な動画ファイルであり、この動画ファイルが配信されて来た際に、この動画ファイルを動画再生させて前記表示装置へ転送する、ようにしたことを特徴とする請求項10記載の画像表示制御端末。

【請求項13】コンピュータが読み取り可能なプログラムコードを有する記録媒体であって、配信サービスの利用契約を行った各契約ユーザに対して配信すべきインテリア用画像を選択して、当該各契約ユーザが指定した指定端末へ配信した際に、配信したインテリア用画像の配信履歴を契約ユーザ別に管理させる為のコンピュータが読み取り可能なプログラムコードと、前記各契約ユーザに対してインテリア用画像を順次配信する際に、前記配信履歴を参照し、過去に選択していないインテリア用画像を契約ユーザ別に選択して、当該各契約ユーザが指定した指定端末へ配信させる為のコンピュータが読み取り可能なプログラムコードと、を有する記録媒体。

【請求項14】コンピュータが読み取り可能なプログラムコードを有する記録媒体であって、配信サービスの利用契約を行った契約ユーザ別にその契約内容を管理させる為のコンピュータが読み取り可能なプログラムコードと、前記各契約ユーザに対して、その契約内容にしたがって順次配信すべき各インテリア用画像を選択する際に、そ

の契約内容として指定されている画像ジャンルに基づいて当該ジャンル対応のインテリア用画像を選択し、この選択したインテリア用画像をその契約内容として指定されている配信時間間隔で前記指定端末へ配信させる為のコンピュータが読み取り可能なプログラムコードと、を有する記録媒体。

【請求項15】コンピュータが読み取り可能なプログラムコードを有する記録媒体であって、配信サービスの利用契約を行った契約ユーザ別に契約内容を管理させる為のコンピュータが読み取り可能なプログラムコードと、前記各契約ユーザに対して配信すべきインテリア用画像を選択する際に、その契約内容として複数画像の同時配信が指定されている場合には、その契約数分のインテリア用画像を選択して、当該契約ユーザが指定した指定端末へ配信した後、前回の配信から所定時間の経過を検出した際に、当該契約ユーザに対して未配信の契約数分のインテリア用画像を選択して、前記指定端末へ配信する配信動作を繰り返させる為のコンピュータが読み取り可能なプログラムコードと、を有する記録媒体。

【請求項16】コンピュータが読み取り可能なプログラムコードを有する記録媒体であって、画像配信サービスの利用契約に応じて、公衆ネットワークを介して配信されて来た複数のインテリア用画像を受信させる為のコンピュータが読み取り可能なプログラムコードと、公衆ネットワークを介して受信した各インテリア用画像毎にその転送先を指定して、屋内ネットワークを介して複数の表示装置へ対応するインテリア用画像を転送させる為のコンピュータが読み取り可能なプログラムコードと、を有する記録媒体。

【発明の詳細な説明】

【0001】

【発明の属する技術分野】この発明は、ネットワークを介して画像を配信する配信サービスを行う画像配信システムまたは画像配信方法または画像表示制御端末若しくはそれらのプログラム記録媒体に関する。

【0002】

【従来の技術】近年、インターネット技術の高度化およびコンピュータ端末や通信料の低価格化に伴って、各家庭のコンピュータ端末から業者側のサーバ装置を呼び出すことにより、インターネットを利用して誰でも容易に各種のサービスを受けることができるようになってきている。また、移動体通信システムにおいて、携帯電話端末は、音声通話に利用する以外にも、電子メールやインターネットの利用も可能となり、携帯電話端末を情報通信媒体として利用する機会も増えてきている。ところで、従来、インターネットを利用することにより、例えば、壁紙用の写真画像やコンピュータ画面の背景画像（スクリーンセーバー画像）等の各種画像を各家庭のコンピュータ端末へダウンロードして利用したり、携帯電

話端末へ日替わり配信されて来る背景画像をその待受け画面用として利用するようにしたものが知られている。

【0003】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】しかしながら、壁紙用の写真画像やスクリーンセーバー画像をダウンロードする際に、選択候補としての画像群から予め所望の画像を選択するようにしているが、所望の画像をダウンロードする毎に、面倒な選択作業を行わなければならない、利用者に大きな負担をかけていた。また、各利用者の携帯電話端末に待受け画面用の画像を自動配信する際に、各利用者に対して同一画像を一齐に配信するようにしているが、必ずしも、利用者の好みに合った画像であるとは限らず、また、過去に配信を受けた画像が何度も繰り返して送信されて来ることもあった。ところで、液晶表示型のテレビジョン受像機の小型化・薄型化が進み、壁掛けテレビと呼ばれるテレビジョン受像機も普及し始めているが、この壁掛けテレビは、その価格が安くなればなるほど、テレビ番組を視聴するツールだけではなく、風景画像や絵画画像を表示するインテリアツールとしての利用も予想される。

【0004】第1の発明の課題は、趣味性の高いインテリア用画像をネットワーク経由で配信する際に、配信サービスの利用契約を行った契約内容通りに、その利用者の好みに合い、過去に配信していない新鮮な画像のみを順次配信できるようにした画像配信システムまたは画像配信方法を提供することである。第2の発明の課題は、趣味性の高いインテリア用画像をネットワーク経由で配信する際に、配信サービスの利用契約を行った契約内容通りに、その利用者の好みに合った指定ジャンルに属する画像のみを指定の時間間隔で定期的に配信できるようにした画像配信システムまたは画像配信方法を提供することである。第3の発明の課題は、配信サービスの利用契約を行った契約内容通りに、その利用者側の複数の表示装置に対応して別々に表示される複数のインテリア用画像を同時配信することができると共に、過去に配信していない新鮮な画像のみを指定の時間間隔で定期的に配信できるようにした画像配信システムまたは画像配信方法を提供することである。第4の発明の課題は、配信サービスの利用契約を行った契約内容通りに配信されて来た複数のインテリア用画像を当該利用者側の複数の表示装置に対応して別々に表示できるようにした画像表示制御端末を提供することである。

【0005】この発明の手段は、次の通りである。請求項第1記載の発明(第1の発明)は、ネットワークを介して画像配信サービスを行う画像配信装置を備えてなる画像配信システムであって、複数のインテリア用画像を記憶管理する画像記憶手段と、配信サービスの利用契約を行った各契約ユーザに対して配信すべきインテリア用画像を選択して、当該各契約ユーザが指定した指定端末へ配信した際に、配信したインテリア用画像の配信履歴

を契約ユーザ別に記憶管理する配信履歴記憶手段と、前記各契約ユーザに対してインテリア用画像を順次配信する際に、前記配信履歴記憶手段を参照し、過去に選択していないインテリア用画像を契約ユーザ別に選択して、当該各契約ユーザが指定した指定端末へ配信する配信制御手段とを具備するものである。したがって、請求項1記載の発明においては、趣味性の高いインテリア用画像をネットワーク経由で配信する際に、配信サービスの利用契約を行った契約内容通りに、その利用者の好みに合い、過去に配信していない新鮮な画像のみを順次配信できるようにした画像配信システムを提供することができる。また、第1の発明に対する応用発明として、その画像配信方法を提供すると共に、コンピュータに対して、上述した各機能を実行させるためのプログラムコードをそれぞれ記録した記録媒体を提供する。

【0006】なお、この第1の発明は次のようなものであってもよい。

(1) 前記各インテリア用画像は、その種類を示す画像ジャンルに対応付けて分類管理されており、前記各契約ユーザに対して順次配信すべき各インテリア用画像を選択して配信する際に、その契約内容に画像ジャンルが指定されている場合には、その指定ジャンルに属する各インテリア用画像群の中から抽出したインテリア用画像を配信し、契約内容に画像ジャンルが指定されていない場合には、任意の画像ジャンルを選んで、そのジャンルに属する各インテリア用画像群の中から抽出したインテリア用画像を配信する。

(2) 前記インテリア用画像の配信を受けた前記指定端末から当該画像の登録要求がネットワークを介して送信されて来た場合に、その要求に応答して当該インテリア用画像をその指定端末対応の登録画像として記憶保持しておき、当該指定端末から登録画像の配信要求を受けた場合に、この指定端末対応の登録画像を読み出して要求元の端末へ配信する。

(3) 前記インテリア用画像の配信を受けた前記指定端末から生映像の配信要求がネットワークを介して送信されて来た場合に、当該配信済みのインテリア用画像を撮影した場所に設置されている撮影装置から生中継映像を取得し、前記撮影装置から取得した生中継映像を要求元の前記指定端末へリアルタイムに配信する。

【0007】請求項第6記載の発明(第2の発明)は、ネットワークを介して画像配信サービスを行う画像配信装置を備えてなる画像配信システムであって、画像の種類を示す画像ジャンルに対応付けて複数のインテリア用画像を分類して記憶管理する画像記憶手段と、配信サービスの利用契約を行った契約ユーザ別にその契約内容を記憶管理する配信契約記憶手段と、前記各契約ユーザに対して、その契約内容にしたがって順次配信すべき各インテリア用画像を選択する際に、その契約内容として指定されている画像ジャンルに基づいて当該ジャンル対応

のインテリア用画像を選択し、この選択したインテリア用画像をその契約内容として指定されている配信時間間隔で前記指定端末へ配信する配信制御手段とを具備するものである。したがって、請求項6記載の発明においては、趣味性の高いインテリア用画像をネットワーク経由で配信する際に、配信サービスの利用契約を行った契約内容通りに、その利用者の好みに合った指定ジャンルに属する画像のみを指定の時間間隔で定期的に配信できるようにした画像配信システムを提供することができる。また、第2の発明に対する応用発明として、その画像配信方法を提供すると共に、コンピュータに対して、上述した各機能を実行させるためのプログラムコードをそれぞれ記録した記録媒体を提供する。

【0008】請求項第8記載の発明（第3の発明）は、ネットワークを介して画像配信サービスを行う画像配信装置を備えてなる画像配信システムであって、複数のインテリア用画像を記憶管理する画像記憶手段と、配信サービスの利用契約を行った契約ユーザ別に契約内容を記憶管理する配信契約記憶手段と、前記各契約ユーザに対して配信すべきインテリア用画像を選択する際に、その契約内容として複数画像の同時配信が指定されている場合には、その契約数分のインテリア用画像を選択して、当該契約ユーザが指定した指定端末へ配信した後、前回の配信から所定時間の経過を検出した際に、当該契約ユーザに対して未配信の契約数分のインテリア用画像を選択して、前記指定端末へ配信する配信動作を繰り返す画像配信手段とを具備するものである。したがって、請求項8記載の発明においては、配信サービスの利用契約を行った契約内容通りに、その利用者側の複数の表示装置に対応して別々に表示される複数のインテリア用画像を同時配信できると共に、過去に配信していない新鮮な画像のみを指定の時間間隔で定期的に配信できるようにした画像配信システムを提供することができる。また、第3の発明に対する応用発明として、その画像配信方法を提供すると共に、コンピュータに対して、上述した各機能を実行させるためのプログラムコードをそれぞれ記録した記録媒体を提供する。

【0009】請求項第10記載の発明（第4の発明）は、公衆ネットワークを介して画像を配信するサービスを行う画像配信システムに接続されていると共に、屋内ネットワークを介して複数の表示装置に接続されているサービス利用者側の画像表示制御端末であって、画像配信サービスの利用契約に応じて配信されて来た複数のインテリア用画像を受信する受信手段と、この受信手段によって受信した各インテリア用画像毎にその転送先を指定して、前記複数の表示装置へ対応するインテリア用画像を転送する画像転送手段とを具備するものである。したがって、請求項4記載の発明においては、配信サービスの利用契約を行った契約内容通りに配信されて来た複数のインテリア用画像を当該利用者側の複数の表示装置

に対応して別々に表示できるようにした画像表示制御端末を提供することができる。また、第4の発明に対する応用発明として、コンピュータに対して、上述した各機能を実行させるためのプログラムコードをそれぞれ記録した記録媒体を提供する。

【0010】なお、この第4の発明は次のようなものであってもよい。

(1) 前記複数の表示装置へ対応するインテリア用画像を転送する毎に、その転送した画像識別情報をその転送先に対応付けて記憶管理する識別情報記憶手段と、前記複数の表示装置のうち、そのいずれからの表示要求を受信した際に、前記識別情報記憶手段を検索することによって、その要求元の表示装置に現在表示されているインテリア用画像を特定して、その画像識別情報を取得する識別情報取得手段とを設け、この識別情報取得手段によって取得した画像識別情報を前記画像配信システムへ送信し、前記要求元の表示装置に対して未配信のインテリア用画像あるいは画像関連情報が前記画像配信システムから配信されて来た際に、この未配信のインテリア用画像あるいは画像関連情報を当該要求元の表示装置へ転送する。

(2) 前記インテリア用画像は、動画画像の再生が可能な動画画像ファイルであり、この動画画像ファイルが配信されて来た際に、この動画画像ファイルを動画再生させて前記表示装置へ転送する。

【0011】

【発明の実施の形態】以下、図1～図22を参照してこの発明の一実施形態を説明する。なお、この実施形態は、上述した第1および第2の発明を具体的に示したものである。図1は、この実施形態における画像配信システムの全体構成を示したブロック図である。この画像配信システムは、壁紙用の写真画像、コンピュータ端末のスクリーンセーバー画像、壁掛けテレビに表示される風景画像や絵画画像等のように、趣味性の高いインテリア用画像を配信する画像配信サービスを行うもので、このようなサービス事業を全国規模で展開することによって、インターネットを利用して、誰でも利用可能な広域通信システム（画像配信システム）を構築するものである。

【0012】そして、この画像配信システムは、この画像配信サービスの利用契約を行った契約ユーザ別にその契約内容を記憶管理しておき、インターネットを介してその契約内容にしたがった各インテリア用画像を選択すると共に、選択した各インテリア用画像を各契約ユーザが指定した指定端末へ順次配信するようにしている。この場合、画像配信は通常有料であるが、この実施形態においては、インテリア用画像にスポンサー広告を付加して配信するようにしており、広告付き画像を配信した場合には、利用者に代わってその広告主がその利用料を支払うようにしている。つまり、契約ユーザは、広告付き



のインテリア用画像の配信を受けた場合には、そのユーザに対して配信料を課金せずに、無料提供するサービスを行っている。

【0013】画像配信サービスを行うサービス事業者側の画像配信装置（画像配信システムサーバ）1には、この配信サービスを利用する利用者側の家庭用の画像表示制御装置（ホームサーバ）2がネットワーク網（インターネット）3を介して接続されている。ホームサーバ2には、家庭内に配置されているコンピュータ端末、壁掛けテレビ等の各種の表示機能付き電子機器4（以下、ウィンドウ装置A、B、Cと称する）が屋内ネットワーク5を介して接続されており、ホームサーバ2は、ウィンドウ装置A、B、Cの現在の表示内容を管理するウィンドウ管理テーブル6の内容を参照して、各ウィンドウ装置A、B、Cに対する表示制御を行う。この場合、画像配信システムサーバ1は、画像データを圧縮して送信し、ホームサーバ2は、この圧縮データを解凍して各ウィンドウ装置へ転送するようにしている。つまり、ホームサーバ2は、インテリア用画像が動画画像の再生が可能な動画画像ファイルである場合に、この動画画像ファイルが配信されて来た際に、この動画画像ファイルを動画再生させてウィンドウ装置へ転送するようにしている。

【0014】画像配信システムサーバ1は、インテリア用画像を順次配信する場合、配信サービスの利用契約を行った契約内容通りに、ウィンドウ装置別に過去に配信していない新鮮なインテリア用画像を一定時間間隔毎（例えば、1日毎）に1つずつ選択して、ホームサーバ2へ定期的に配信するようにしている。つまり、契約ユーザ側の複数のウィンドウ装置に対応して別々に表示される複数のインテリア用画像を同時配信すると共に、過去に配信していない新鮮な画像のみを指定の時間間隔で定期的に配信するようにしている。この場合、システムサーバ1は、契約内容通りに、ウィンドウ別インテリア用画像を定期的に配信する契約配信の状態において、当該契約ユーザ側のいずれかのウィンドウ装置から割り込み要求があった場合には、定期的な契約配信の他に、その要求に応じた割り込み処理を実行し、要求元のウィンドウ装置宛に要求内容にしたがったデータを送信するようにしている。ホームサーバ2は、ウィンドウ装置台数分の各インテリア用画像を受信すると、対応するウィンドウ装置へ各インテリア用画像を割り当て表示させる。なお、画像配信システムサーバ1には、ネットワーク網3を介して生中継用のカメラ装置7が接続されている。この生中継用のカメラ装置7は、インテリア用画像が例えば、風景画像の場合に、その風景の現場を撮影して、画像配信システムサーバ1へ送信するもので、その風景の生映像を視聴が利用者から要求された際に、システムサーバ1は、その要求元のホームサーバ2へ転送するようにしている。

【0015】図2は、システムサーバ1側に設けられて

いる各種のファイル群を示した図で、(A)は、背景画像ファイル群11、(B)は、画像サンプルファイル群12、(C)は、広告画像ファイル群13、(D)は、広告関連情報ファイル群14、(E)は、画像関連情報ファイル群15の内容を示している。背景画像ファイル群11は、画像番号に対応して各種のインテリア用画像を1ファイル1画像形式で記憶するもので、各インテリア用画像としては、静止画像や動画画像であり、インテリア用画像として相応しい高品質な画像である。なお、背景画像ファイル群11の内容は、流行性等を考慮して自由に追加、変更することができる。

【0016】画像サンプルファイル群12は、背景画像ファイル群11の内容に対応付けられているもので、各インテリア用画像の概要やその一部であるサンプル画像が画像番号に対応付けて記憶されている。このサンプル画像は対応するインテリア用画像に代わって画像選択候補としてユーザに案内する際に読み出される情報である。広告画像ファイル群13は、インテリア用画像に付加されて配信される広告画像を記憶するもので、広告番号に対応して各種の広告画像が1ファイル1画像形式で記憶されている。なお、広告画像は予めその広告主から提供されたもので、インターネットを経由して広告画像を受信して広告画像ファイル群13に登録するようにしている。

【0017】広告関連情報ファイル群14は、広告画像ファイル群13内の各広告に対応してその広告関連情報を記憶するもので、例えば、広告商品やサービス内容を詳細に説明する為の各種の案内情報を広告番号に対応して記憶する。画像関連情報ファイル群15は、背景画像ファイル群11内の各画像に対応してその画像関連情報を記憶するもので、例えば、インテリア用画像が風景や絵画の場合に、その風景の場所や歴史、観光情報を案内したり、創作者や価格等を案内する案内情報を画像番号に対応して記憶する。

【0018】図3および図4は、システムサーバ1側に設けられている各種のデータベースやテーブルを示した図で、図3(A)は、契約データベース16、(B)は、ジャンル別テーブル17、図4(A)は、配信履歴テーブル18、(B)は、好みデータベース19の内容を示している。契約データベース16は、画像配信サービスの利用契約を行った契約ユーザ別にその契約内容と共に、その個人情報を記憶管理するもので、そのレコードは、以下に示す各項目を有する構成となっている。

【0019】すなわち、契約内容を示す項目としては、当該契約ユーザ固有の識別情報である「ユーザID」の項目と、画像配信サービスの利用形態（広告付無料コース・非広告の有料コース）のうち、ユーザが任意に指定した「配信コース」の項目と、画像配信対象のウィンドウ装置の台数を示す「配信台数」の項目と、ウィンドウ装置別に配信希望として指定された画像の種類を示す

「画像ジャンル1」、「画像ジャンル2」、「画像ジャンル3」の項目と、ウィンドウ装置別に指定画像ジャンルに属する各インテリア用画像を1つずつ指定して順次配信する際に、その配信タイミングを示す「配信時間間隔」の各項目を有している。また、個人情報を示す項目としては、「ユーザ名」、「住所」、「電話番号」、「銀行口座」等の各項目を有している。

【0020】ジャンル別テーブル17は、背景画像群や広告画像群をその種類に応じてジャンル別に記憶管理するテーブルであり、ジャンル別に、それに属する各背景画像を示す「背景画像番号」や各広告画像を示す「広告番号」を記憶する。配信履歴テーブル18は、現時点までに画像を配信した配信履歴を契約ユーザ別に記憶管理するもので、画像を配信した配信先の「ユーザID」別に、配信済みのインテリア用画像群を示す各画像番号と、配信済みの広告群を示す各広告番号とを記憶する。好みデータベース19は、配信した画像に興味をもったユーザがその画像の再配信を希望する場合に、その希望画像（好み画像）を登録管理するもので、「ユーザID」に対応して好み画像の「画像番号」を複数記憶可能な構成となっている。

【0021】図5は、ホームサーバ2側に設けられているウィンドウ管理テーブル6の内容を示したもので、ウィンドウ管理テーブル6は、各ウィンドウ装置に表示されている現在の表示情報を管理するもので、「ウィンドウ装置名」、「ウィンドウID」、「画像番号」、「広告番号」を記憶する構成となっている。なお、「画像番号」、「広告番号」は、現在表示されている背景画像、広告画像を示している。図6(A)は、ウィンドウ装置側の表示画面を示した図で、背景画像に広告が付加された場合の表示例を示している。ここで、この画面の左隅部に表示されている「メニュー」がクリックされると、図6(B)に示すようなユーザ要求メニューが表示される。この要求メニュー画面には、8種類のメニュー項目が表示され、ウィンドウ装置側でそのいずれかのメニュー項目がユーザ指定されると、ホームサーバ2は、この指定メニュー項目の要求をシステムサーバ1へ送信する。

【0022】上述した要求メニュー画面内に表示されている8種類のメニュー項目は、「1：広告メニュー」、「2：画像メニュー」、「3：画像切替」、「4：画像選択」、「5：広告選択」、「6：好み登録」、「7：好み配信」、「8：生映像」で、その詳細については後述するため、ここでは、各メニュー項目の処理内容を簡単に説明しておく。「広告メニュー」の項目は、広告メニューの送付を要求する処理メニュー項目で、システムサーバ1は、その要求元へ配信してある広告と同一ジャンルの各広告一覧を広告メニューとして作成して送信するようにしている。「画像メニュー」の項目は、任意のジャンルに属する画像の配信を要求する処理メニュー項

目で、システムサーバ1は、ジャンルの一覧を送信した後、希望ジャンルがユーザ選択された場合に、その選択ジャンルに属する複数のサンプル画像を選択候補とする画像メニューを送信するようにしている。

【0023】「画像切替」の項目は、配信された画像と同一ジャンルに属する他の画像の配信を要求する処理メニュー項目である。つまり、現在表示中の画像が飽きたような場合に、他の画像へジャンプさせて切替表示を要求する切替表示処理のメニュー項目である。「画像選択」の項目は、配信された画像に興味をもったような場合に、その画像の関連情報を要求する処理メニュー項目である。「広告選択」の項目は、配信した広告にユーザが興味をもったような場合に、その広告の関連情報を要求する処理メニュー項目である。「好み登録」の項目は、配信した画像にユーザが興味をもったような場合に、その後の再配信を希望するために、その画像の登録を要求する登録処理のメニュー項目である。また、「好み配信」の項目は、この登録画像の再配信を要求する再配信処理のメニュー項目である。「生映像」の項目は、配信した画像にユーザが興味をもったような場合に、その画像の現場を撮影した生映像の配信を要求する処理メニュー項目である。

【0024】図7は、システムサーバ1の全体構成を示したブロック図である。なお、ホームサーバ2の構成要素も基本的にはシステムサーバ1の同様であるため、その説明は省略する。CPU101は、記憶装置102内のオペレーティングシステムや各種アプリケーションソフトにしたがってこのシステムサーバ1の全体動作を制御する中央演算処理装置である。記憶装置102は、オペレーティングシステムや各種アプリケーションソフトの他、上述した背景画像ファイル群11、画像サンプルファイル群12、広告画像ファイル群13、広告関連情報ファイル群14、画像関連情報ファイル群15、契約データベース16、ジャンル別テーブル17、配信履歴テーブル18、好みデータベース19が格納され、磁気的、光学的、半導体メモリ等によって構成されている記録媒体103やその駆動系を有している。この記録媒体103はハードディスク等の固定的な媒体若しくは着脱自在に装着可能なCD-ROM、フロッピーディスク、RAMカード、磁気カード等の可搬型の媒体である。また、この記録媒体103内のプログラムやデータは、必要に応じてCPU1の制御によりRAM（例えば、スタティックRAM）104にロードされたり、RAM104内のデータが記録媒体103にセーブされる。更に、記録媒体はサーバ等の外部機器側に設けられているものであってもよく、CPU101は伝送媒体を介してこの記録媒体内のプログラム／データを直接アクセスして使用することもできる。

【0025】また、CPU101は記録媒体103内に格納されるその一部あるいは全部を他の機器側から伝送

媒体を介して取り込み、記録媒体103に新規登録あるいは追加登録することもできる。更に、プログラム／データはサーバ等の外部機器側で記憶管理されているものであってもよく、CPU101は伝送媒体を介して外部機器側のプログラム／データを直接アクセスして使用することもできる。一方、CPU101にはその入出力周辺デバイスである伝送制御部105、入力部106、表示部107がバスラインを介して接続されており、入出力プログラムにしたがってCPU101はそれらの動作を制御する。

【0026】次に、この実施形態における画像配信システムの動作を図8～図22に示すフローチャートを参照して説明する。ここで、システムサーバ1において、これらのフローチャートに記述されている各機能を実現するためのプログラムは、読み取り可能なプログラムコードの形態で記録媒体103に格納されており、CPU101はこのプログラムコードにしたがった動作を逐次実行する。また、CPU101は伝送媒体を介して伝送されてきた上述のプログラムコードにしたがった動作を逐次実行することもできる。すなわち、記録媒体の他、伝送媒体を介して外部供給されたプログラム／データを利用してこの実施形態特有の動作を実行することもできる。なお、このことは、ホームサーバ2についても同様である。

【0027】図8～図14は、ホームサーバ2側の動作を示したフローチャート、図15～図21は、システムサーバ1側の動作を示したフローチャートである。図8は、ホームサーバ2側において、画像配信サービスの利用契約時に実行される初期設定処理を示したフローチャートである。まず、画像配信サービスを利用するユーザは、自宅に設置されている表示機能付き電子機器4である各ウィンドウ装置A、B、Cに対応して、その識別情報（ウィンドウID）を入力設定する処理を行う（ステップA1）。そして、画像配信サービスの利用契約を指示するために、ネットワーク網3を介してシステムサーバ1に対して契約アクセスを要求した後（ステップA2）、これにตอบสนองしてシステムサーバ1から契約申込用の契約ページが送信されてきた場合には、それを受信して表示する（ステップA3）。この契約ページ画面内に必要事項（契約内容やユーザ情報）を入力して返信する（ステップA4、A5）。

【0028】図22は、この契約ページ画面を示し、このページ画面内には、“A：契約コース”、“B：画像ジャンル”、“C：配信時間間隔”、“D：ユーザ情報”の各入力領域を有している。“A：契約コース”には、“1：有料コース（広告なし）”、“2：無料コース（広告付き）”のメニュー項目が案内表示され、利用者は希望の契約コースを選択指定する。“B：画像ジャンル”には、配信対象のウィンドウ装置数を示す「配信数」の入力領域と、この入力領域にセットした配信数に

応じて表示される「1台目のジャンル」、「2台目のジャンル」、「3台目のジャンル」……の各入力領域とを有し、利用者は配信対象の各ウィンドウ装置毎に、配信希望する画像の種類があれば、対応する入力領域にそのジャンル名を入力する。“C：配信時間間隔”には、例えば、1日、1週間のように希望する画像配信間隔を入力する。“D：ユーザ情報”には、「氏名」、「住所」、「電話番号」、「銀行口座」のユーザ情報を入力する。

【0029】この利用契約時において、システムサーバ1は、ホームサーバ2からの契約アクセスにตอบสนองして、図15のフローチャートを実行開始する。まず、システムサーバ1は、上述の契約ページを要求元のホームサーバ2へ送信した後（ステップB1）、これにตอบสนองして返信されてきた契約内容を受信すると（ステップB2）、利用申込のあったユーザを新規会員として登録する為に、ユーザIDを生成する（ステップB3）。そして、生成したユーザIDと、受信した契約内容とに基づいて新規ユーザの契約レコードを生成して契約データベース16へ登録する（ステップB4）。

【0030】このようにして新規会員となったユーザが契約後において、自宅のウィンドウ装置をパワーオンすると、ホームサーバ2は、図9のフローチャートにしたがった動作を実行開始する。まず、ホームサーバ2は、システムサーバ1に対して画像の配信要求を行う（ステップA11）。すると、システムサーバ1は、この配信アクセスにตอบสนองして図15のフローチャートを実行開始し、配信要求の中からその要求元の「電話番号」を取得すると共に（ステップB5）、この「電話番号」に基づいて契約データベース16を検索して、該当ユーザの契約レコードを読み出す（ステップB6）。

【0031】そして、このレコード内から「1台目のジャンル」の項目を指定して、その項目データを読み出し（図16のステップB7）、指定項目内にジャンル名が設定されているかを調べ（ステップB8）、ジャンル名が設定されていない場合は、ジャンルをランダムに選択した後（ステップB9）、この選択ジャンルに基づいてジャンル別テーブル17を検索する処理に移るが（ステップB10）、希望ジャンルが設定されていれば、その設定ジャンルに基づいてジャンル別テーブル17を検索する処理に移る（ステップB10）。この場合、ジャンル対応のジャンル別テーブル17内の各画像番号を指定して、その中から当該ユーザ宛として過去に配信していない画像番号を選出する。すなわち、このジャンルに対応するジャンル別テーブル17内の画像番号を1つずつ読み出すと共に、配信履歴テーブル18内のユーザ別画像番号を参照し、ジャンル別テーブル17から読み出した画像番号が配信履歴テーブル18内に記録されているかを判別し、記録されていれば、ジャンル別テーブル17から次の画像番号を読み出し、以下、配信履歴テーブル

18内に記録されていない画像番号が検索されるまで上述の動作を繰り返す。これによって当該ユーザ宛として過去に配信していない画像番号を選出することができる。

【0032】次に、システムサーバ1は、契約レコードから「配信コース」の項目内容を取得して、広告付きの無料コースが設定されているかを判別し（ステップB11）、広告付きのコースが設定されていれば、ジャンル対応の広告番号のうち、当該ユーザ宛として過去に配信していない広告番号を選出する（ステップB12）。この場合においても、上述と同様に、このジャンルに対応するジャンル別テーブル17内の広告番号を1つずつ読み出すと共に、配信履歴テーブル18内のユーザ別広告番号を参照し、ジャンル別テーブル17から読み出した広告番号が配信履歴テーブル18内に記録されているかを判別し、記録されていれば、ジャンル別テーブル17から次の広告番号を読み出し、以下、配信履歴テーブル18内に記録されていない広告番号が検索されるまで上述の動作を繰り返す。これによって当該ユーザ宛として過去に配信していない広告番号を選出することができる。

【0033】そして、契約レコードから「配信数」の項目データを取得し、複数台分の指定が有るかを判別し（ステップB13）、有れば、指定台数分の処理を終了したかを判別する（ステップB14）。いま、1台目のウィンドウ装置に対する選出処理が終了した段階であるから、契約レコードから2台目の設定ジャンルを読み出し（ステップB15）、以下、上述の背景画像番号、広告番号の選出処理を繰り返す（ステップB8～B15）。これによって全台数分の背景画像番号、広告番号選出処理が終了すると、ステップB16に移り、選出した各画像番号に基づいて背景画像ファイル群11を検索し、該当する背景画像データを読み出すと共に、選出した各広告番号に基づいて広告画像ファイル群13を検索して該当する広告画像データを読み出し、背景画像データと共に、広告画像データをその背景画像番号、広告番号を含めて要求元のホームサーバ2へ送信する。つまり、システムサーバ1は、背景画像データとその画像番号とをウィンドウIDと共に、ウィンドウ装置別に送信するが、この場合、広告付きコースが指定されていれば、更に背景画像と共に、広告画像データ、広告番号を含めてウィンドウ装置別に送信するようにしている。

【0034】その後、要求元から回線切断が有ったかを調べる（ステップB17）。この場合、ユーザが回線を切断すると、そのユーザからのアクセスに応じた処理は、この時点で終了となるが、回線が接続されている間は、当該ホームサーバ2からの処理要求を受付けたり（ステップB18）、当該契約レコードから「配信時間間隔」を読み出し、この設定間隔が経過したかを調べる（ステップB19）。この場合、ユーザからの処理要求

を検出すると、その要求内容に応じた処理に移る（図17～図12のフロー）。なお、「配信時間間隔」の経過検出は、前回、画像を配信した時にクリアスタートしたユーザ別タイマ（図示せず）の計測時間と、契約レコード内の「配信時間間隔」とを比較することにより行われる。いま、前回、画像を配信してから設定時間の経過が検出された場合には、ステップB7に戻り、上述の動作を繰り返すことにより、画像配信処理が行われる（ステップB7～B16）。この場合、「配信時間間隔」が例えば、1週間であれば、当該ユーザに対する画像配信処理は、1週毎に定期的に行われると共に、今週の配信分としては、先週に配信した背景画像、広告とは異なる画像、広告が配信される。つまり、同一ジャンルに属しているが、過去に配信していない画像や広告が選ばれて配信される。

【0035】一方、ホームサーバ2側においては、システムサーバ1から送信されて来る背景画像データ、広告画像データ等を受信すると（図9のステップA12）、受信した各ウィンドウ装置毎の配信データの中からいずれかのウィンドウ装置を指定して、その背景画像番号、広告番号を抽出した後、ウィンドウ管理テーブル6をアクセスして、その背景画像番号、広告番号をウィンドウ管理テーブル6内に設定しておく（ステップA13）。そして、受信した背景画像データを対応する指定ウィンドウ装置へ転送して表示出力させると共に（ステップA14）、当該背景画像に広告画像が付加されているかを判別し（ステップA15）、広告が有れば、この広告画像データを指定ウィンドウ装置へ転送して背景画像内に合成表示させる（ステップA16）。このようなウィンドウ表示処理は、各ウィンドウ装置を順次指定しながら全台数分繰り返される（ステップA12～A17）。

【0036】このようなウィンドウ表示処理が終了すると、ホームサーバ2は、いずれかのウィンドウ装置からメニュー指示が有るかを監視し（ステップA18）、メニュー指示を検出すると、その要求内容に応じた処理に移る（図10～図14のフロー）。また、システムサーバ1から画像配信があるかを監視し（ステップA19）、画像が配信されて来た場合には、上述のウィンドウ表示処理（ステップA12～A17）が繰り返される。また、起動中のウィンドウ装置がパワーオフされたかを監視しており（ステップA20）、パワーオフされた場合には、システムサーバ1との回線接続を遮断した後（ステップA21）、システムサーバ1との送受信処理は、この時点で終了となる。

【0037】ここで、いずれかのウィンドウ装置からメニュー指示が有った場合（ステップA18）、つまり、ウィンドウ画面の「メニュー」ボタンが操作された場合、ホームサーバ2は、そのウィンドウ装置からのメニュー指示を受信すると、図10のフローに移り、要求元のウィンドウ装置に対応するウィンドウIDを取得する

と共に(ステップA31)、この要求元のウインドウ装置に対して、図6(B)に示したようなユーザ要求メニュー画面を送信して表示出力させる(ステップA32)。ここで、要求元のウインドウ装置側において、このメニュー画面の中からいずれかのメニュー項目が選択指定されると、ホームサーバ2は、選択された処理内容を判別する(ステップA33)。いま、「1: 広告メニュー」の項目が指定された場合には、ウインドウ管理テーブル6をアクセスし、要求元のウインドウ装置対応の広告番号を取得し(ステップA34)、広告メニュー要求と共に、この広告番号をシステムサーバ1へ送信する(ステップA35)。

【0038】すると、システムサーバ1は、ホームサーバ2からの要求内容を受信すると(図16のステップB18)、図17のフローに移り、その要求内容を判別するが(ステップB21)、いま、広告メニュー要求が送信されて来た場合であるからステップB22に移り、広告メニュー要求と共に送信されて来た広告番号を受信し、この広告番号に基づいてジャンル別テーブル17をアクセスし、広告番号対応のジャンルを特定する(ステップB23)。そして、このジャンル対応の全広告番号を読み出して広告画像ファイル群13をアクセスし、該当する広告画像を全て取得する(ステップB24)。これによって取得した各広告画像の一覧を広告メニューページとして作成して要求元のホームサーバ2へ送信する(ステップB25)。

【0039】ホームサーバ2は、この広告メニューページを受信すると(図10のステップA36)、要求元のウインドウ装置へ広告メニューページを転送して表示出力させた後(ステップA37)、メニュー選択待ちとなる(ステップA38)。ここで、ウインドウ装置側において、いずれかの広告が選択指定されると、選択された広告番号を受信してシステムサーバ1へ送信する(ステップA39)。すると、システムサーバ1は、ホームサーバ2からの広告番号を受信し(図17のステップB26)、この広告番号に基づいて対応の広告関連情報ファイル群14を検索し、広告番号対応の関連情報を読み出して(ステップB27)、広告情報ページを作成し、要求元のホームサーバ2へ送信する(ステップB28)。その後、図16のステップB18に戻る。ホームサーバ2は、この広告番号対応の関連情報ページを受信すると(ステップA40)、要求元のウインドウ装置へ転送して表示出力させる(ステップA41)。その後、図9のステップA18に戻る。

【0040】また、ウインドウ装置側において、要求メニュー画面内の「2: 画像メニュー」の項目が指定された場合、ホームサーバ2は、システムサーバ1に対して画像メニュー要求を送信する(図11のステップA42)。システムサーバ1は、画像メニュー要求を受信すると、画像ジャンルの一覧を示したジャンルメニューペ

ージを要求元のホームサーバ2へ送信する(図18のステップB29)。すると、ホームサーバ2は、このジャンルメニューページを受信して(ステップA43)、要求元のウインドウ装置へ送信して表示出力させた後(ステップA44)、ジャンル選択待ちとなる(ステップA45)。この状態において、ウインドウ装置側でいずれかのジャンルが選択指定されると、選択されたジャンルを受信してシステムサーバ1へ転送する(ステップA46)。

【0041】システムサーバ1は、選択ジャンルを受信すると(ステップB30)、このジャンルに基づいてジャンル別テーブル17を検索して該当する画像番号群を取得すると共に、この画像番号群に基づいて画像サンプルファイル群12を検索して各サンプル画像を取得する(ステップB31)。そして、この各サンプル画像の一覧を画像メニューページとして作成し、要求元のホームサーバ2へ送信する(ステップB32)。ホームサーバ2は、画像メニューページを受信すると(ステップA47)、要求元のウインドウ装置へ画像メニューページを転送して表示出力させた後(ステップA48)、画像選択待ちとなる(ステップA49)。

【0042】この状態において、ウインドウ装置側でいずれかの画像が選択指定されると、選択された画像番号を受信してシステムサーバ1へ送信する(ステップA50)。すると、システムサーバ1は、選択画像番号を受信し(ステップB33)、この選択画像番号に基づいて背景画像ファイル群11を検索し、該当する背景画像データを読み出す(ステップB34)。そして、広告付きコースが選択されているかを判別し(ステップB35)、広告付きコースが指定されていれば、選択ジャンルに基づいてジャンル別テーブル17を検索し、その中から過去に選択されていない広告番号を選び、当該広告番号対応の広告画像データを広告画像ファイル群13から読み出す(ステップB36)。そして、読み出した背景画像データとその画像番号、広告画像データとその広告番号を要求元のホームサーバ2へ送信する(ステップB37)。その後、図16のステップB18に戻る。

【0043】ホームサーバ2は、システムサーバ1から配信されてきたデータを受信すると(ステップA51)、その配信内容から画像番号、広告番号を抽出し、要求元のウインドウ装置に対応付けて、この画像番号、広告番号をウインドウ管理テーブル6に設定しておく(ステップA52)。そして、受信した背景画像データを要求元のウインドウ装置へ転送して表示出力させた後(ステップA53)、広告画像データも受信した場合には(ステップA54)、この広告画像データを要求元のウインドウ装置へ転送して当該背景画像に付加表示させる(ステップA55)。その後、図9のステップA18に戻る。

【0044】また、ユーザ要求メニュー画面内の「3:

画像切換」の項目が指定された場合、ホームサーバ2は、要求元のウインドウ装置に基づいてウインドウ管理テーブル6を検索し、そのウインドウ対応の画像番号を取得すると共に(図12のステップA56)、取得した画像番号を画像切換要求と共にシステムサーバ1へ送信する(ステップA57)。システムサーバ1は、画像切換要求を受けた場合に、その中から画像番号を受信し(図19のステップB38)、この画像番号に基づいてジャンル別テーブル17を検索して該当するジャンルを特定し(ステップB39)、この特定ジャンル内の画像番号群の中から次の画像番号を指定する(ステップB40)。そして、上述と同様の画像読み出し配信処理に移り(ステップB34~B37)、この画像番号対応の背景画像を読み出すと共に、広告付きコースであれば、広告画像データを読み出して配信する。この場合、ホームサーバ2側においても、上述と同様の画像表示処理に移り(ステップA51~A55)、ウインドウ管理テーブル6への設定処理を行った後、背景画像の表示処理、広告画像の表示処理を行う。

【0045】また、ユーザ要求メニュー画面内の「4: 画像選択」の項目が指定された場合、ホームサーバ2は、要求元のウインドウ装置に基づいてウインドウ管理テーブル6を検索し、ウインドウ対応の画像番号を取得すると共に(図12のステップA58)、取得した画像番号を画像選択要求と共にシステムサーバ1へ送信する(ステップA59)。システムサーバ1は、画像選択要求を受けた場合、その中から画像番号を受信し(ステップB41)、この画像番号に基づいて画像関連情報ファイル群15を検索して該当する関連情報を読み出し(ステップB42)、画像情報ページを作成して要求元のホームサーバ2へ送信する(ステップB43)。この場合、ホームサーバ2側では、上述した広告情報ページを受信した時と同様の処理に移り、画像情報ページを受信すると(図10のステップA40)、それを要求元のウインドウ装置へ転送して表示出力させる(ステップA41)。

【0046】また、ユーザ要求メニュー画面内の「5: 広告選択」の項目が指定された場合、ホームサーバ2は、要求元のウインドウ装置に基づいてウインドウ管理テーブル6を検索し、ウインドウ対応の広告番号を取得すると共に(図13のステップA61)、取得した広告番号を広告選択要求と共にシステムサーバ1へ送信する(ステップA62)。ホームサーバ2は、広告番号を受信すると(図20のステップB51)、上述と同様の処理に移り(図17のステップB27、B28)、この広告番号対応の関連情報を読み出し、情報ページを作成して送信する。この場合、ホームサーバ2側では、広告情報ページを受信すると(図10のステップA40)、それを要求元のウインドウ装置へ転送して表示出力させる(ステップA41)。

【0047】また、ユーザ要求メニュー画面内の「6: 好み登録」の項目が指定された場合、ホームサーバ2は、要求元のウインドウ装置に基づいてウインドウ管理テーブル6を検索し、ウインドウ対応の画像番号を取得すると共に(図13のステップA63)、取得した画像番号を好み登録要求と共にシステムサーバ1へ送信する(ステップA64)。ホームサーバ2は、この画像番号を受信すると(図20のステップB52)、要求元ユーザの電話番号に基づいて契約データベース16を検索して該当するユーザIDを取得すると共に、このユーザIDに対応付けて、受信した画像番号を好みデータベース19に登録する(ステップB53)。

【0048】このような好み登録後において、ユーザ要求メニュー画面内の「7: 好み配信」の項目が指定された場合、ホームサーバ2は、好み配信要求をシステムサーバ1へ送信する(図13のステップA65)。すると、システムサーバ1は、要求元ユーザの電話番号に基づいて契約データベース16を検索して該当するユーザIDを取得すると共に、このユーザIDに基づいて好みデータベース19を検索して、対応する各画像番号を読み出す(ステップB54)。そして、この各画像番号に基づいて画像サンプルファイル群12をアクセスしてサンプル画像群を取得する(ステップB55)。そして、上述と同様の処理に移り(図18のステップB32)、サンプル画像群の一覧を示す画像メニューページを作成して送信する。ホームサーバ2は、画像メニューページを受信すると(図13のステップA66)、上述と同様の処理に移り(図11のステップA48)、画像メニューページの表示処理を行った後、画像選択処理、選択画像表示処理等を実行する(ステップA49~A55)。この場合、システムサーバ1は、これに応答した画像読み出し処理、送信処理等を実行する(図18のステップB33~B37)。

【0049】また、ユーザ要求メニュー画面内の「8: 生映像」の項目が指定された場合、ホームサーバ2は、要求元のウインドウ装置に基づいてウインドウ管理テーブル6を検索し、ウインドウ対応の画像番号を取得すると共に(図14のステップA67)、取得した画像番号を生映像要求と共にシステムサーバ1へ送信する(ステップA68)。システムサーバ1は、画像番号を受信すると(図21のステップB56)、ネットワーク網3を介して当該画像番号に対応付けられている生中継用のカメラ装置7をアクセスし、撮影開始を指示した後、そのカメラ映像を取得すると共に(ステップB57)、取得したカメラ映像を生中継映像として要求元のホームサーバ2へリアルタイムに送信する(ステップB58)。その後、要求元のホームサーバ2からの回線切断の有無を監視したり(ステップB59)、終了要求の有無を監視し(ステップB60)、回線切断や終了要求を検出するまでステップB57に戻り、生中継映像の送信を継続す

る。ここで、回線切断を検出した場合には、この時点で処理終了となり、また、終了要求を受けた場合には、図16のステップB18に戻る。

【0050】ホームサーバ2は、生中継映像を受信すると(図14のステップA69)、この生中継映像を要求元のウィンドウ装置へ転送して表示出力させる(ステップA70)。その後、ホームサーバ2は、当該ウィンドウ装置からのパワーオフを監視したり(ステップA71)、戻りボタン(図示せず)の操作有無を監視しており(ステップA73)、パワーオフを検出した場合には、システムサーバ1との接続を切断して終了となるが(ステップA72)、戻りボタンが操作された場合には、終了要求をシステムサーバ1へ送信する(ステップA77)。

【0051】以上のように、この実施形態においてシステムサーバ1は、配信サービスの利用契約を行った契約ユーザ別にその契約内容を記憶管理しておき、背景画像ファイル群11の中から各契約ユーザ向けの各インテリア用画像を順次選択してそのホームサーバ2へ自動配信する際、過去に配信されていないインテリア用画像を優先的に配信するようにしたから、つまり、趣味性の高いインテリア用画像をネットワーク経由で配信する際に、配信サービスの利用契約を行った契約内容通りに、その契約ユーザの好みに合い、過去に配信していない画像のみを順次配信するようにしたから、配信済みの画像がタブって配信されることを防止でき、契約ユーザにあっては、飽るこない、いつも新鮮なインテリア用画像を楽しむことができる。

【0052】配信サービスの利用契約を行った契約ユーザ別にその契約内容として、希望に応じて画像ジャンルの指定有無の契約を可能としたから、画像ジャンルが指定されている場合には、契約ユーザの好みに合った指定ジャンル内のインテリア用画像を楽しむことができ、画像ジャンルが指定されていない場合には、ジャンルにとらわれず、広範囲の各種インテリア用画像を楽しむことができる。配信済みのインテリア用画像に興味があれば、その画像登録を要求するだけで、そのインテリア用画像を登録保存しておくようにしたから、その後、この登録画像の再配信をいつでも要求することができ、好みの画像を何回も楽しむことができる。更に、配信済みのインテリア用画像に興味がある場合、その画像の撮影場所の生中継映像を要求すれば、その生中継映像が直ちに配信されて来るので、インテリアという枠を超えた別の楽しみ方を得ることができる。

【0053】また、配信サービスの利用契約を行った契約内容通りに、指定ジャンルに属するインテリア用画像のみを指定の時間間隔で定期的に配信するようにしたから、契約ユーザ側の各ウィンドウ装置には、その契約ユーザの好みに合ったインテリア用画像が定期的に変更されて表示され、飽ることがなく、希望に応じた配信サー

ビスを受けることができる。

【0054】また、配信サービスの利用契約を行った契約内容通りに、その契約ユーザ側の複数のウィンドウ装置に対応して別々に表示される複数のインテリア用画像を同時配信すると共に、過去に配信していない新鮮な画像のみを指定の時間間隔で定期的に配信するようにしたから、飽ることなく、複数のインテリア用画像を同時に楽しむことができる。

【0055】一方、ホームサーバ2は、配信サービスの利用契約を行った契約内容通りにシステムサーバ1から配信されて来た複数のインテリア用画像を受信して、当該契約ユーザ側の複数のウィンドウ装置に対応して別々に表示するようにしたから、飽ることなく、複数のインテリア用画像を同時に楽しむことができる。この場合、ホームサーバ2は、ウィンドウ装置からの要求を検出すると共に、その要求元に現在表示中の画像を特定してシステムサーバ1へその要求内容を送信し、システムサーバ1から送信されて来る未配信のインテリア用画像あるいは画像関連情報を当該要求元の転送するようにしたから、ウィンドウ装置側の要求に応じた表示制御が可能となる。また、動画画像の再生が可能な動画画像ファイルであるインテリア用画像が配信されて来た際に、ホームサーバ2は、この動画画像ファイルを動画再生させてウィンドウ装置へ転送するようにしたから、動画再生機能のないウィンドウ装置であっても動画を楽しむことができる。

【0056】その他、配信されて来る各インテリア用画像にはスポンサー広告が付加されて送信されて来るので、契約ユーザにあっては、本来、有料コンテンツとなるべき高品質のインテリア用画像を無料で楽しむことができる。なお、広告主にあっては、背景画像への広告であるために、広告効果が極めて高く、広告依頼の増加を見込むことができる。また、契約ユーザに対応して画像ジャンル別に選択された各インテリア用画像にスポンサー広告を付加する際に、当該画像ジャンルと同一の広告ジャンルに属する広告を抽出して付加するようにしたから、その画像に興味をもったユーザに対して効果的な広告が可能となる。また、ウィンドウ装置から画像変更要求を受けた場合に、その要求内容に該当する他のインテリア用画像を取得して配信するようにしたから、配信してある画像以外の他の画像を直ちに入手して楽しむことができ、インテリア用画像に対応する関連情報を取得してその要求元へ送信するようにしたから、配信画像に興味をもった場合に、その詳細な情報を直ちに入手することができる。

【0057】なお、上述した実施形態においては、配信サービスの利用契約時に、その契約内容をホームサーバ2からインターネット経由でシステムサーバ1へ送信するようにしたが、インターネットを利用せずに、契約内容を郵送やファクシミリ送信するようにしてもよい。また、上述した実施形態においては、システムサーバ1が

インテリア用画像をホームサーバ2へ配信すると、ホームサーバ2は、受信したインテリア用画像を各ウィンドウ装置A、B、Cへ屋内ネットワーク5を介して転送するようにしたが、システムサーバ1は、移動体通信システム網を介してインテリア用画像を携帯電話端末へ直接配信するようにしてもよい。つまり、インテリア用画像は、携帯電話端末の待ち画面用の画像であってもよい。

【0058】また、上述した実施形態においては、契約ユーザ側の複数のウィンドウ装置に対応して別々に表示される複数のインテリア用画像をユーザ指定の時間間隔で定期的に配信するようにしたが、この時間間隔をウィンドウ装置毎に指定しておいてもよい。つまり、ウィンドウ装置毎に配信時間間隔を異なるように指定しておいてもよい。

【0059】また、インテリア用画像としては、風景画像や絵画画像に限らず、人物画像であってもよく、例えば、予め契約ユーザが家族写真をシステムサーバ1側に登録しておき、当該契約ユーザ向けの各種インテリア用画像を定期的に配信する際に、その家族写真をインテリア用画像の一部として配信するようにしてもよい。つまり、配信されるインテリア用画像は、サービス業者側で用意したものに限らず、ユーザが提供した画像を時々配信するようにしてもよい。また、サービス業者側で用意したインテリア用画像内にユーザが提供した画像を合成した合成画像を当該契約ユーザ向けのインテリア用画像として順次配信するようにしてもよい。

【0060】

【発明の効果】第1の発明によれば、趣味性の高いインテリア用画像をネットワーク経由で配信する際に、配信サービスの利用契約を行った契約内容通りに、その利用者の好みに合い、過去に配信していない新鮮な画像のみを順次配信することができ、配信済みの画像がタブって配信されることを防止でき、契約ユーザにとっては、飽きのこない、いつも新鮮なインテリア用画像を楽しむことが可能となる。第2の発明によれば、趣味性の高いインテリア用画像をネットワーク経由で配信する際に、配信サービスの利用契約を行った契約内容通りに、その利用者の好みに合った指定ジャンルに属する画像のみを指定の時間間隔で定期的に配信することができ、契約ユーザ側の各表示装置には、その契約ユーザの好みに合ったインテリア用画像が定期的に変更されて表示され、飽きることがなく、希望に応じた配信サービスを受けることができる。第3の発明によれば、配信サービスの利用契約を行った契約内容通りに、その利用者側の複数の表示装置に対応して別々に表示される複数のインテリア用画像を同時配信できると共に、過去に配信していない新鮮な画像のみを指定の時間間隔で定期的に配信することができ、飽きことなく、複数のインテリア用画像を同時に楽しむことができる。第4の発明によれば、配信サービスの利用契約を行った契約内容通りに配信されて

来た複数のインテリア用画像を当該利用者側の複数の表示装置に対応して別々に表示できるようにした画像表示制御端末を提供することができる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】画像配信システムの全体構成を示したブロック図。

【図2】(A)は、背景画像ファイル群11、(B)は、画像サンプルファイル群12、(C)は、広告画像ファイル群13、(D)は、広告関連情報ファイル群14、(E)は、画像関連情報ファイル群15の内容を示した図。

【図3】(A)は、契約データベース16、(B)は、ジャンル別テーブル17の内容を示した図。

【図4】(A)は、配信履歴テーブル18、(B)は、好みデータベース19の内容を示した図。

【図5】ホームサーバ2側に設けられているウィンドウ管理テーブル6の内容を示した図。

【図6】(A)は、ウィンドウ装置側の表示画面を示した図、(B)は、ユーザ要求メニュー画面を示した図。

【図7】システムサーバ1の全体構成を示したブロック図。

【図8】ホームサーバ2側において、画像配信サービスの利用契約時に実行される初期設定処理を示したフローチャート。

【図9】自宅のウィンドウ装置がパワーオンされた際に実行開始されるホームサーバ2側の動作を示したフローチャート。

【図10】図9に続く、ホームサーバ2側の動作を示したフローチャート。

【図11】図10に続く、ホームサーバ2側の動作を示したフローチャート。

【図12】図11に続く、ホームサーバ2側の動作を示したフローチャート。

【図13】図12に続く、ホームサーバ2側の動作を示したフローチャート。

【図14】図13に続く、ホームサーバ2側の動作を示したフローチャート。

【図15】ホームサーバ2からの契約アクセス時や配信アクセス時にシステムサーバ1側で実行開始される動作を示したフローチャート。

【図16】図15に続く、システムサーバ1側の動作を示したフローチャート。

【図17】図16に続く、システムサーバ1側の動作を示したフローチャート。

【図18】図17に続く、システムサーバ1側の動作を示したフローチャート。

【図19】図18に続く、システムサーバ1側の動作を示したフローチャート。

【図20】図19に続く、システムサーバ1側の動作を示したフローチャート。



【図21】図20に続く、システムサーバ1側の動作を示したフローチャート。

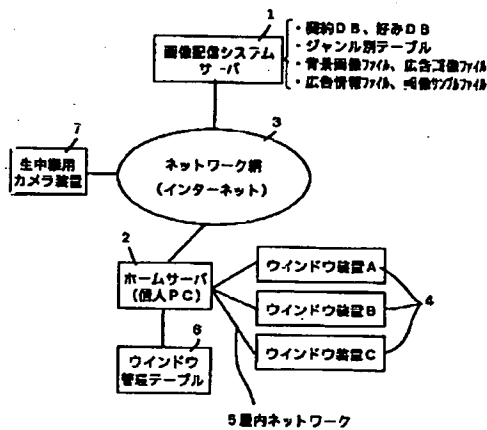
【図22】契約ページ画面を示した図。

【符号の説明】

- 1 システムサーバ
- 2 ホームサーバ
- 3 ネットワーク網
- 4 表示機能付き電子機器（ウインドウ装置）
- 5 屋内ネットワーク
- 6 ウインドウ管理テーブル
- 7 生中継用のカメラ装置
- 11 背景画像ファイル群

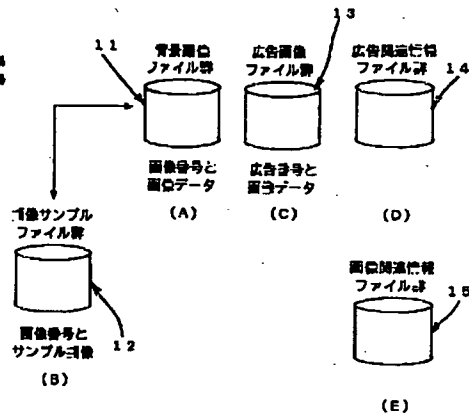
- 12 画像サンプルファイル群
- 13 広告画像ファイル群
- 14 広告関連情報ファイル群
- 15 画像関連情報ファイル群
- 16 契約データベース
- 17 ジャンル別テーブル
- 18 配信履歴テーブル
- 19 好みデータベース
- 101 CPU
- 102 記憶装置
- 103 記録媒体
- 105 伝送制御部

【図1】



画像配信システム

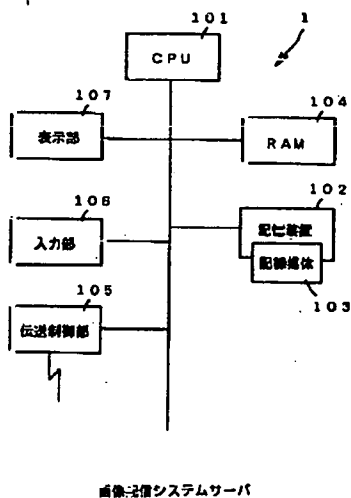
【図2】



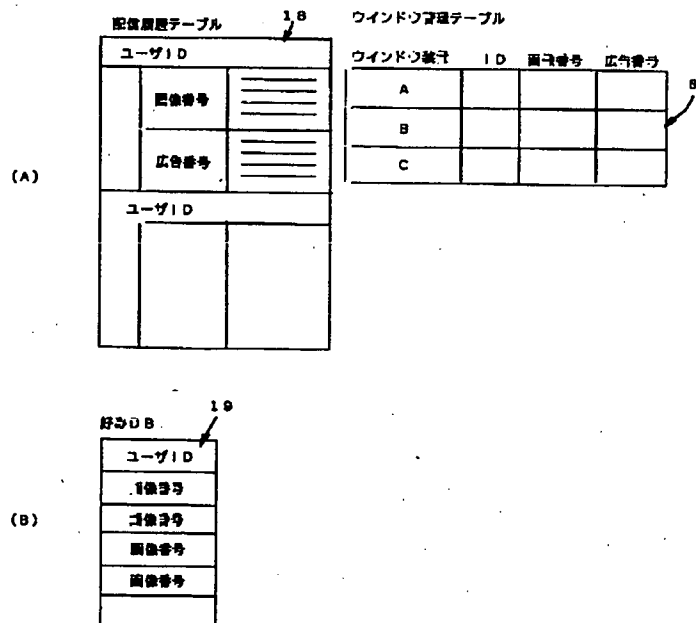
【図4】

【図5】

【図7】



画像配信システムサーバ

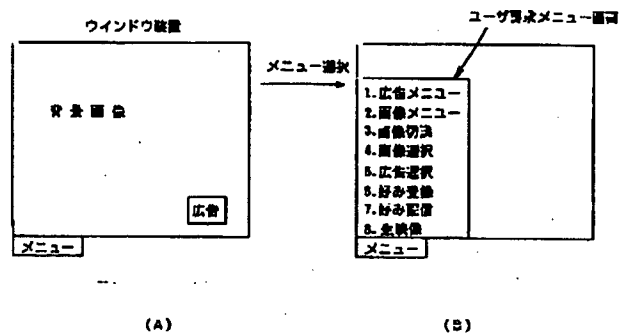


【図3】

(A)

16
ユーザID
コース
配信数
ジャンル1
ジャンル2
ジャンル3
配信時間間隔
ユーザ名
住所
電話番号
機内口説

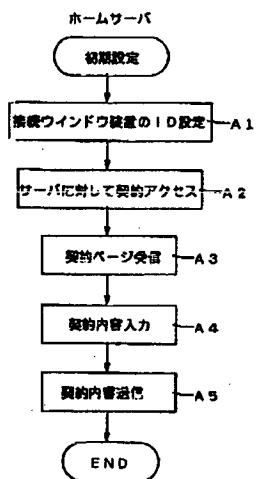
【図6】



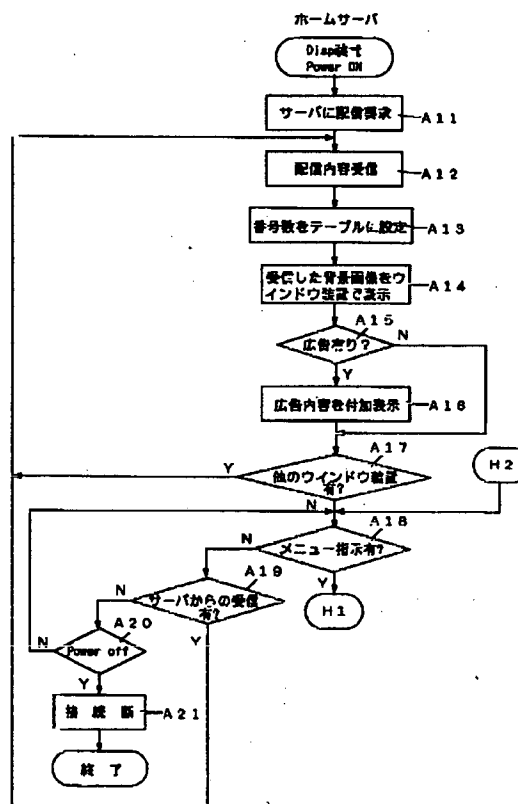
(B)

ジャンル	背景画像番号	広告番号
17	XXX	
	XXX	

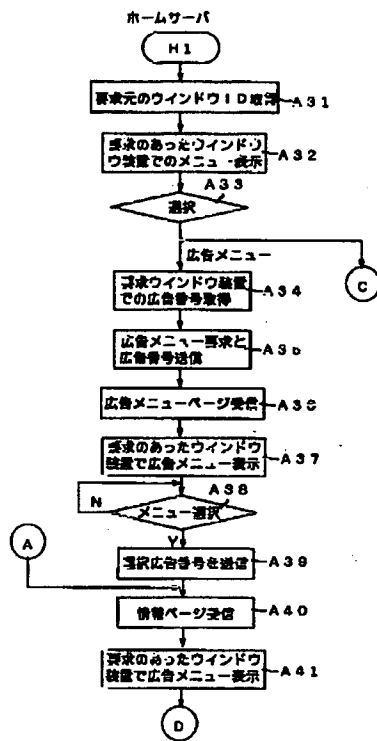
【図8】



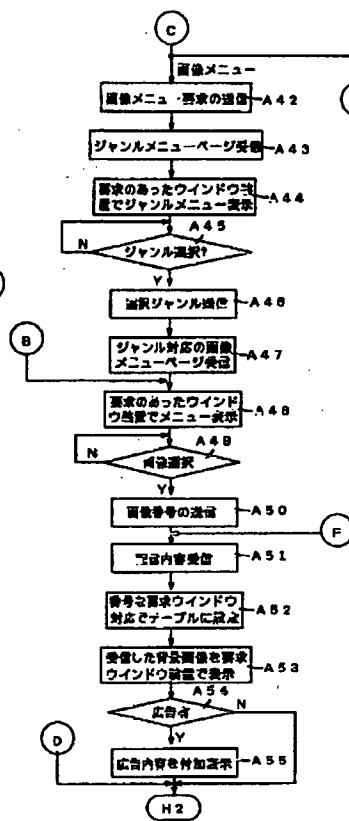
【図9】



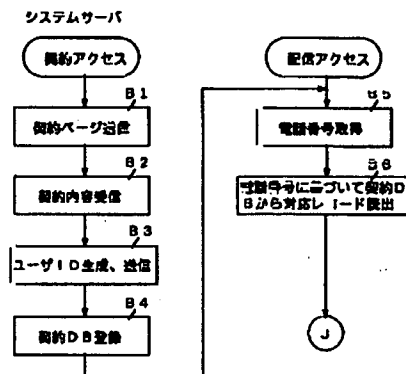
【図10】



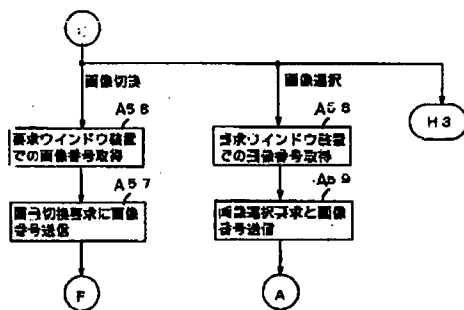
【図11】



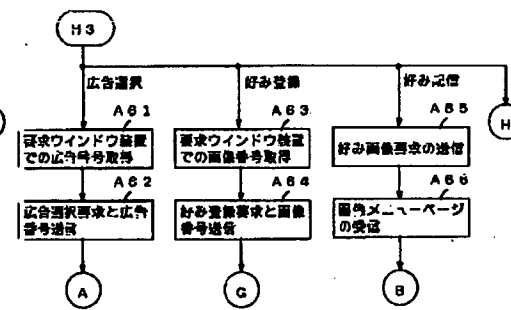
【図15】



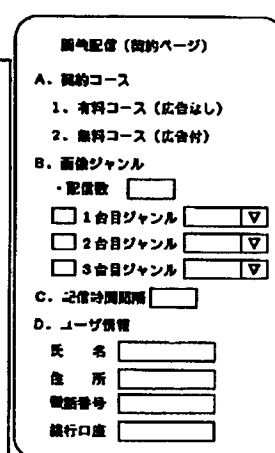
【図12】



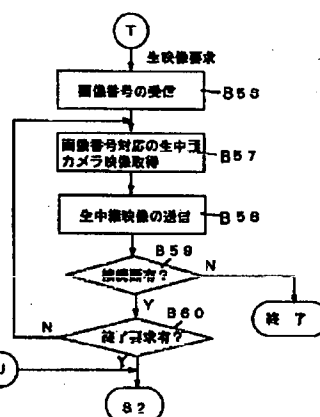
【図13】



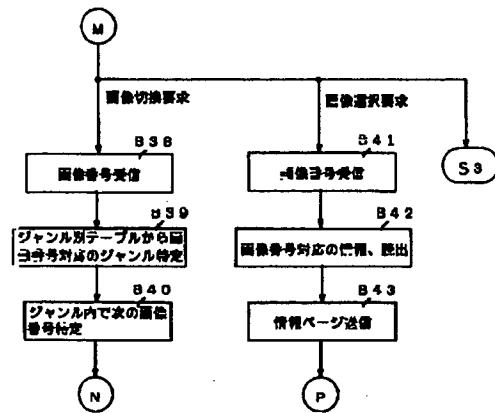
【图22】



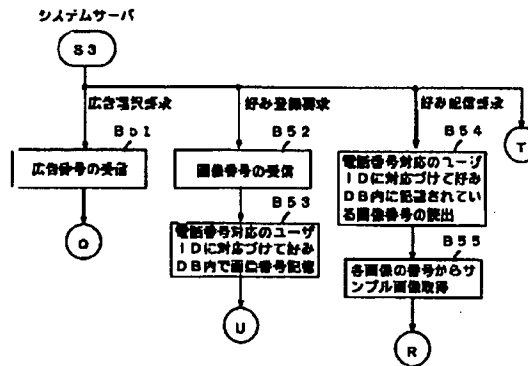
【図21】



【図19】



【図20】



フロントページの続き

(51)Int.Cl.<sup>7</sup>  
G 0 6 F 17/30

識別記号  
3 4 0

F I  
G 0 6 F 17/30

(参考)  
3 4 0 B

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CLAIMS

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[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] The image storage means which is the image distribution system which comes to have image distribution equipment which offers image distribution service through a network, and carries out the storage management of two or more images for interiors, The image for interiors which should be distributed to each contract user who performed the use contract of distribution service is chosen. The distribution hysteresis storage means which carries out the storage management of the distribution hysteresis of the distributed image for interiors according to a contract user when it distributes to the assignment terminal specified by each contract user concerned, In case sequential distribution of the image for interiors is carried out to said each contract user, with reference to said distribution hysteresis storage means, the image for interiors which had not been chosen in the past is chosen according to a contract user. The image distribution system characterized by providing the distribution control means distributed to the assignment terminal specified by each contract user concerned.

[Claim 2] The image for interiors which should be distributed to each contract user who is the image distribution approach which distributes an image through a network, and performed the use contract of distribution service is chosen. When it distributes to the assignment terminal specified by each contract user concerned, the storage management of the distribution hysteresis of the distributed image for interiors is carried out according to a contract user. The image distribution approach characterized by choosing the image for interiors which had not been chosen in the past according to a contract user with reference to said distribution hysteresis, and making it distribute to the assignment terminal specified by each contract user concerned when carrying out sequential distribution of the image for interiors to said each contract user.

[Claim 3] Match said each image for interiors with the image genre which shows the class, and classification management is carried out. In case each image for interiors which should carry out sequential distribution to said each contract user is chosen and distributed, when the image genre is specified as the contents of a contract When the image for interiors extracted out of each image group for interiors belonging to the assignment genre is distributed and the image genre is not specified as the contents of a contract The image distribution system according to claim 1 characterized by the thing which choose the image genre of arbitration and distributes the image for interiors extracted out of each image group for interiors belonging to the genre, and which was made like, or the image distribution approach according to claim 2.

[Claim 4] When the registration demand of the image concerned has been transmitted through a network from said assignment terminal which received distribution of said image for interiors Answer the demand and storage maintenance of the image for interiors concerned is carried out as the registered image corresponding to an assignment terminal. The image distribution system according to claim 1 characterized by the thing which read this registered image corresponding to an assignment terminal, and distributes to the terminal of a requiring agency when the distribution demand of a registered image is received from the assignment terminal concerned, and which was made like, or the image distribution approach according to claim 2.

[Claim 5] When the distribution demand of a raw image has been transmitted through a network from said assignment terminal which received distribution of said image for interiors A live-broadcast image is acquired from the photography equipment currently installed in the location which photoed the image [ finishing / the distribution concerned ] for interiors. The image distribution system according to claim 1 characterized by the thing which distribute to real time, and which was made like to said assignment terminal of demand-live-broadcast image acquired from said photography equipment origin, or the image distribution approach according to claim 2.

[Claim 6] The image storage means which matches with the image genre which is the image distribution system which comes to have image distribution equipment which offers image distribution service through a network, and shows the class of image, and classifies and carries out the storage management of two or more images for interiors, The distribution contract storage means which carries out the storage management of the contents of a contract according to the contract user who performed the use contract of distribution service, In case each image for interiors which should carry out sequential distribution according to the contents of a contract is chosen to said each contract user Based on the image genre specified as the contents of a contract, the image for interiors concerned corresponding to a genre is chosen. The image distribution system characterized by providing the distribution control means which distributes this selected image for interiors to said assignment terminal with the distribution time interval specified as those contents of a contract.

[Claim 7] Are the image distribution approach which distributes an image through a network, and said each contract user is received. In case each image for interiors which should carry out sequential distribution according to the contents of a contract is chosen The image distribution approach which chooses the image for interiors concerned corresponding to a genre based on the image genre specified as those contents of a contract, and distributes this selected image for interiors to said assignment terminal with the distribution time interval specified as those contents of a contract and which is characterized by making it like.

[Claim 8] The image storage means which is the image distribution system which comes to have image distribution equipment which offers image distribution service through a network, and carries out the storage management of two or more images for interiors, The distribution contract storage means which carries out the storage management of the contents of a contract according to the contract user who performed the use contract of distribution service, In case the image for interiors which should be distributed to said each contract user is chosen, when coincidence distribution of two or more images is specified as the contents of a contract Choose the image for interiors for several of the contract minutes, and when progress of predetermined time is detected from the last distribution after distributing to the assignment terminal specified by the contract user concerned, the image for interiors for several non-distributed contract minutes is chosen to the contract user concerned. The image distribution system characterized by providing the image distribution means which repeats the distribution actuation distributed to said assignment terminal.

[Claim 9] In case the image for interiors which should be distributed to each contract user who is the image distribution approach which distributes an image through a network, and performed the use contract of distribution service is chosen When coincidence distribution of two or more images is specified as the contents of a contract Choose the image for interiors for several of the contract minutes, and when progress of predetermined time is detected from the last distribution after distributing to the assignment terminal specified by the contract user concerned, the image for interiors for several non-distributed contract minutes is chosen to the contract user concerned. The image distribution approach which repeats the distribution actuation distributed to said assignment terminal and which is characterized by making it like.

[Claim 10] While connecting with the image distribution system which offers service which distributes an image through a public network A receiving means to receive two or more images for interiors which are the image display control terminals by the side of the service user connected to two or more indicating equipments through the inside-of-a-house network, and have been distributed according to the use contract of image distribution service, The image display control terminal characterized by

providing an image transfer means to transmit the image for interiors which was received with this receiving means, and which specifies that destination for every image for interiors, and corresponds to said two or more displays.

[Claim 11] The identification information storage means which matches the transmitted image identification information with the destination, and carries out a storage management whenever it transmits the image for interiors which corresponds to said two or more displays, When one of the display demands is received among said two or more displays, by searching said identification information storage means The image for interiors by which it is indicated by current is specified as the display of the demand origin. Establish an identification information acquisition means to acquire that image identification information, and the image identification information acquired with this identification information acquisition means is transmitted to said image distribution system. When non-distributed the image for interiors or image related information has been distributed from said image distribution system to the display of said demand origin The image display control terminal according to claim 10 characterized by the thing which transmit the image for interiors or image related information which is not distributed [ this ] to the display of the demand origin concerned, and which was made like.

[Claim 12] Said image for interiors is an image display control terminal according to claim 10 which is the dynamic-image file which can reproduce a dynamic image, and is characterized by the thing which are made to carry out animation playback of this dynamic-image file, and transmits to said display when this dynamic-image file has been distributed, and which was made like.

[Claim 13] The image for interiors which should distribute a computer to each contract user who has the program code which can be read, and who is a record medium and performed the use contract of distribution service is chosen. The program code which the computer for making the distribution hysteresis of the distributed image for interiors manage according to a contract user when it distributes to the assignment terminal specified by each contract user concerned can read, In case sequential distribution of the image for interiors is carried out to said each contract user, with reference to said distribution hysteresis, the image for interiors which had not been chosen in the past is chosen according to a contract user. The record medium which has the program code which the computer for making it distribute to the assignment terminal specified by each contract user concerned can read.

[Claim 14] The program code which the computer for making the contents of a contract manage according to the contract user who has the program code which a computer can read, and who is a record medium and performed the use contract of distribution service can read, In case each image for interiors which should carry out sequential distribution according to the contents of a contract is chosen to said each contract user Based on the image genre specified as the contents of a contract, the image for interiors concerned corresponding to a genre is chosen. The record medium which has the program code which the computer for making this selected image for interiors distribute to said assignment terminal with the distribution time interval specified as those contents of a contract can read.

[Claim 15] The program code which the computer for making the contents of a contract manage according to the contract user who has the program code which a computer can read, and who is a record medium and performed the use contract of distribution service can read, In case the image for interiors which should be distributed to said each contract user is chosen, when coincidence distribution of two or more images is specified as the contents of a contract Choose the image for interiors for several of the contract minutes, and when progress of predetermined time is detected from the last distribution after distributing to the assignment terminal specified by the contract user concerned, the image for interiors for several non-distributed contract minutes is chosen to the contract user concerned. The record medium which has the program code which the computer for making the distribution actuation distributed to said assignment terminal repeat can read.

[Claim 16] The record medium which has the program code which the program code which the computer for making two or more images for interiors which are the record media which have the program code which a computer can read, and have been distributed through a public network according to the use contract of image distribution service receive can read, and the computer for making the



image for interiors which received through a public network, and which specifies the destination for every image for interiors, and corresponds to two or more displays through an inside-of-a-house network transmit can read.

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[Translation done.]

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

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[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention] This invention relates to the image distribution system or the image distribution approach of offering distribution service which distributes an image through a network, image display control terminals, or those program documentation media.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] In recent years, anyone can receive various kinds of services now easily using the Internet with the advancement of the Internet technique, and low-pricing of a computer terminal or a telex rate by calling the server equipment by the side of a contractor from the computer terminal of each home. Moreover, in mobile communication system, also besides using for a voice message, use of an electronic mail or the Internet also becomes possible and the opportunity of a cellular-phone terminal to use a cellular-phone terminal as information communication media has also been increasing. By the way, by using the Internet conventionally, various images, such as a photograph for wallpaper and a background image (screen saver image) of a computer screen, are downloaded and used for the computer terminal of each home, or the thing which is awaited and was used as an object for screens is known in the background image by which daily distribution is carried out to a cellular-phone terminal.

[0003]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] However, when downloading the photograph and screen saver image for wallpaper, he is trying to choose a desired image from the image group as a selection candidate beforehand, but whenever it downloaded the desired image, troublesome selection had to be performed and the big burden was applied to the user. Moreover, although he is trying to distribute the same images all at once to each user when awaiting to each user's cellular-phone terminal and carrying out automatic distribution of the image for screens, the image which did not necessarily restrict that it was an image suitable for liking of a user, and received distribution in the past might be transmitted repeatedly. By the way, a miniaturization and thin shape-ization of the television receiver of a liquid crystal display mold progress, and although the television receiver called a flat TV is also beginning to spread, as for this flat TV, not only the tool with which it views and listens to a TV program the more the more that price becomes cheap but the use as an interior tool which displays a landscape image and a pictures image is expected.

[0004] In case the technical problem of the 1st invention distributes the high image for interiors of hobby nature via a network, it is offer the image distribution system or the image distribution approach which could be made to carry out sequential distribution only of the fresh image which suits liking of the user and had not be distributed as the contents of a contract which performed the use contract of distribution service in the past. In case the technical problem of the 2nd invention distributes the high image for interiors of hobby nature via a network, it is offering the image distribution system or the image distribution approach which enabled it to distribute periodically only the image which belongs as the contents of a contract which performed the use contract of distribution service at the assignment

genre suitable for liking of the user with the appointed time interval. the technical problem of the 3rd invention be offering the image distribution system or the image distribution approach which enabled it to distribute periodically only the fresh image which had not be distributed in the past with the appointed time interval while being able to carry out coincidence distribution of two or more images for interiors separately display as the contents of a contract which performed the use contract of distribution service corresponding to two or more displays by the side of the user . The technical problem of the 4th invention is offering the image display control terminal which enabled it to display separately two or more images for interiors distributed as the contents of a contract which performed the use contract of distribution service corresponding to two or more displays by the side of the user concerned.

[0005] The means of this invention is as follows. The image storage means which invention (1st invention) of the 1st publication of a claim is an image distribution system which comes to have image distribution equipment which offers image distribution service through a network, and carries out the storage management of two or more images for interiors, The image for interiors which should be distributed to each contract user who performed the use contract of distribution service is chosen. The distribution hysteresis storage means which carries out the storage management of the distribution hysteresis of the distributed image for interiors according to a contract user when it distributes to the assignment terminal specified by each contract user concerned, In case sequential distribution of the image for interiors is carried out to said each contract user, with reference to said distribution hysteresis storage means, the image for interiors which had not been chosen in the past is chosen according to a contract user, and the distribution control means distributed to the assignment terminal specified by each contract user concerned is provided. Therefore, in invention according to claim 1, in case the high image for interiors of hobby nature is distributed via a network, liking of the user is suited and the image distribution system which could be made to carry out sequential distribution only of the fresh image which had not been distributed in the past can be offered as the contents of a contract which performed the use contract of distribution service. Moreover, as application invention to the 1st invention, while offering the image distribution approach, the record medium which recorded the program code for performing each function mentioned above to the computer, respectively is offered.

[0006] In addition, this 1st invention may be as follows.

(1) Match said each image for interiors with the image genre which shows the class, and classification management is carried out. In case each image for interiors which should carry out sequential distribution to said each contract user is chosen and distributed, when the image genre is specified as the contents of a contract When the image for interiors extracted out of each image group for interiors belonging to the assignment genre is distributed and the image genre is not specified as the contents of a contract The image genre of arbitration is chosen and the image for interiors extracted out of each image group for interiors belonging to the genre is distributed.

(2) When that demand is answered, storage maintenance of the image for interiors concerned is carried out as that registered image corresponding to an assignment terminal, when the registration demand of the image concerned has been transmitted through a network from said assignment terminal which received distribution of said image for interiors, and the distribution demand of a registered image is received from the assignment terminal concerned, read this registered image corresponding to an assignment terminal, and distribute to the terminal of a requiring agency.

(3) When the distribution demand of a raw image has been transmitted through a network from said assignment terminal which received distribution of said image for interiors, distribute to said assignment terminal of demand-live-broadcast image which acquired live-broadcast image from photography equipment currently installed in location which photoed image [ finishing / the distribution concerned ] for interiors, and was acquired from said photography equipment origin on real time.

[0007] Invention (2nd invention) of the 6th publication of a claim is an image distribution system which comes to have image distribution equipment which offers image distribution service through a network. The image storage means which matches with the image genre which shows the class of image, and classifies and carries out the storage management of two or more images for interiors, The distribution contract storage means which carries out the storage management of the contents of a contract according

to the contract user who performed the use contract of distribution service, In case each image for interiors which should carry out sequential distribution according to the contents of a contract is chosen to said each contract user Based on the image genre specified as those contents of a contract, the image for interiors concerned corresponding to a genre is chosen, and the distribution control means which distributes this selected image for interiors to said assignment terminal with the distribution time interval specified as those contents of a contract is provided. Therefore, in invention according to claim 6, in case the high image for interiors of hobby nature is distributed via a network, the image distribution system which enabled it to distribute periodically only the image which belongs as the contents of a contract which performed the use contract of distribution service at the assignment genre suitable for liking of the user with the appointed time interval can be offered. Moreover, as application invention to the 2nd invention, while offering the image distribution approach, the record medium which recorded the program code for performing each function mentioned above to the computer, respectively is offered.

[0008] The image storage means which invention (3rd invention) of the 8th publication of a claim is an image distribution system which comes to have image distribution equipment which offers image distribution service through a network, and carries out the storage management of two or more images for interiors, The distribution contract storage means which carries out the storage management of the contents of a contract according to the contract user who performed the use contract of distribution service, In case the image for interiors which should be distributed to said each contract user is chosen, when coincidence distribution of two or more images is specified as the contents of a contract Choose the image for interiors for several of the contract minutes, and when progress of predetermined time is detected from the last distribution after distributing to the assignment terminal specified by the contract user concerned, the image for interiors for several non-distributed contract minutes is chosen to the contract user concerned. The image distribution means which repeats the distribution actuation distributed to said assignment terminal is provided. Therefore, in invention according to claim 8, while being able to carry out coincidence distribution of two or more images for interiors separately displayed as the contents of a contract which performed the use contract of distribution service corresponding to two or more displays by the side of the user, the image distribution system which enabled it to distribute periodically only the fresh image which had not been distributed in the past with the appointed time interval can be offered. Moreover, as application invention to the 3rd invention, while offering the image distribution approach, the record medium which recorded the program code for performing each function mentioned above to the computer, respectively is offered.

[0009] While connecting with the image distribution system which offers service which distributes an image through a public network, invention (4th invention) of the 10th publication of a claim A receiving means to receive two or more images for interiors which are the image display control terminals by the side of the service user connected to two or more indicating equipments through the inside-of-a-house network, and have been distributed according to the use contract of image distribution service, That destination is specified for each [ which received with this receiving means ] image for interiors of every, and an image transfer means to transmit the image for interiors which corresponds to said two or more displays is provided. Therefore, in invention according to claim 4, the image display control terminal which enabled it to display separately two or more images for interiors distributed as the contents of a contract which performed the use contract of distribution service corresponding to two or more displays by the side of the user concerned can be offered. Moreover, the record medium which recorded the program code for performing each function mentioned above to the computer as application invention to the 4th invention, respectively is offered.

[0010] In addition, this 4th invention may be as follows.

(1) The identification information storage means which matches the transmitted image identification information with the destination, and carries out a storage management whenever it transmits the image for interiors which corresponds to said two or more displays, When one of the display demands is received among said two or more displays, by searching said identification information storage means The image for interiors by which it is indicated by current is specified as the display of the demand

origin. Establish an identification information acquisition means to acquire that image identification information, and the image identification information acquired with this identification information acquisition means is transmitted to said image distribution system. When non-distributed the image for interiors or image related information has been distributed from said image distribution system to the display of said demand origin, the image for interiors or image related information which is not distributed [ this ] is transmitted to the display of the demand origin concerned.

(2) Said image for interiors is the dynamic-image file which can reproduce a dynamic image, and when this dynamic-image file has been distributed, it carries out animation playback of this dynamic-image file, and transmit it to said display.

[0011]

[Embodiment of the Invention] Hereafter, 1 operation gestalt of this invention is explained with reference to drawing 1 - drawing 22 . In addition, this operation gestalt shows concretely the 1st and 2nd invention mentioned above. Drawing 1 is the block diagram having shown the whole image distribution system configuration in this operation gestalt. Anyone builds available broader-based communication system (image distribution system) using the Internet by this image distribution system's offering image distribution service which distributes the high image for interiors of hobby nature like the photograph for wallpaper, the screen saver image of a computer terminal, the landscape image displayed on a flat TV, or a pictures image, and developing such a service enterprise on a scale of the whole country.

[0012] And this image distribution system carries out the storage management of those contents of a contract according to the contract user who performed the use contract of this image distribution service, and it is made to carry out sequential distribution of each selected image for interiors to the assignment terminal specified by each contract user while it chooses each image for interiors which followed those contents of a contract through the Internet. In this case, when add a sponsor advertisement, you are trying to distribute it to the image for interiors and an image with an advertisement is distributed, that advertiser is made to pay that charge of use instead of a user in this operation gestalt, although image distribution is usually a charge. That is, the contract user is offering service which makes free offer, without charging the charge of distribution to the user, when distribution of the image for interiors with an advertisement is received.

[0013] The image display control device 2 for home use by the side of the user using this distribution service (home server) is connected to the image distribution equipment 1 by the side of the service operating company who offers image distribution service (image distribution system server) through the network network (Internet) 3. Various kinds of electronic equipment 4 (the window equipments A, B, and C are called hereafter) with a display function arranged domestic, such as a computer terminal and a flat TV, is connected to the home server 2 through the inside-of-a-house network 5, and a home server 2 performs the display control to each window equipments A, B, and C with reference to the contents of the window managed table 6 which manages the current contents of a display of the window equipments A, B, and C. In this case, the image distribution system server 1 compresses image data, and transmits, and a home server 2 thaws this compressed data, and he is trying to transmit it to each window equipment. That is, when the image for interiors is the dynamic-image file which can reproduce a dynamic image and this dynamic-image file has been distributed, a home server 2 carries out animation playback of this dynamic-image file, and he is trying to transmit it to window equipment.

[0014] When carrying out sequential distribution of the image for interiors, the image distribution system server 1 chooses every one fresh image for interiors which had not been distributed according to window equipment in the past for every (for example, day by day [ 1 ]) fixed time interval, and he is trying to distribute it as the contents of a contract which performed the use contract of distribution service periodically to a home server 2. That is, while carrying out coincidence distribution of two or more images for interiors separately displayed corresponding to two or more window equipments by the side of a contract user, he is trying to distribute periodically only the fresh image which had not been distributed in the past with the appointed time interval. in this case , when an interrupt request occur from one window equipment of the contract user sides concerned in the condition of the contract distribution which distribute the image for the interiors according to window periodically , the system

server 1 perform interruption processing according to that demand as the contents of a contract, and he be try to transmit to it the data which followed the contents of a demand at addressing to window equipment of a require agency besides periodical contract distribution. A home server 2 will assign and display each image for interiors on corresponding window equipment, if each image for interiors for a window unit count is received. In addition, the camera equipment 7 for live broadcast is connected to the image distribution system server 1 through the network network 3. When the image for interiors is for example, a landscape image, the site of that scenery is photoed, it transmits to the image distribution system server 1 and the raw image of that scenery is demanded of viewing and listening by the user, he is trying for the system server 1 to transmit the camera equipment 7 for this live broadcast to the home server 2 of that demand origin.

[0015] Drawing 2 is drawing having shown various kinds of file groups prepared in the system server 1 side, in the image sample file group 12 and (C), the advertising image file group 13 and (D) show the advertising related information file group 14, and, as for the background-image file group 11 and (B), (E) shows [ (A) ] the contents of the image related information file group 15. Corresponding to an image number, various kinds of images for interiors are memorized in a 1 file 1 image format, and as each image for interiors, the background-image file groups 11 are a static image and a dynamic image, and are quality images suitable as an image for interiors. In addition, the contents of the background-image file group 11 take \*\*\*\*\* into consideration, freely, can be added and can change it.

[0016] The image sample file group 12 is matched with the contents of the background-image file group 11, and the sample image which are the outline of each image for interiors and its part matches it with an image number, and it is memorized. This sample image is information read in case a user is guided as an image selection candidate instead of the corresponding image for interiors. The advertising image file group 13 memorizes the advertising image which is added to the image for interiors and distributed, and various kinds of advertising images are memorized in the 1 file 1 image format corresponding to the advertising number. In addition, the advertising image was beforehand offered by the advertiser, receives an advertising image via the Internet, and he is trying to register it into the advertising image file group 13.

[0017] The advertising related information file group 14 memorizes the advertising related information corresponding to each advertisement in the advertising image file group 13, and memorizes various kinds of guidance information for explaining advertising goods and the contents of service to a detail for example, corresponding to an advertising number. The image related information file group 15 memorizes the image related information corresponding to each image in the background-image file group 11, and memorizes the guidance information to which the image for interiors guides the location of the scenery, history, and sightseeing information in the case of scenery or pictures, or it shows a creator, a price, etc. corresponding to an image number.

[0018] Drawing 3 and drawing 4 are drawings having shown the database and table of the various kinds prepared in the system server 1 side, in the contract database 16 and (B), the table 17 according to genre and drawing 4 (A) show the distribution hysteresis table 18, and (B) shows [ drawing 3 (A) ] the contents of the liking database 19. The contract database 16 carries out the storage management of the individual humanity news according to the contract user who performed the use contract of image distribution service with the contents of a contract, and the record has the composition of having each item shown below.

[0019] Namely, the item of the "user ID" which is the identification information of the contract user proper concerned as an item which shows the contents of a contract, The item of the "distribution course" which the user specified as arbitration among the use gestalten (charged course a free course with an advertisement, and in which it does not advertise) of image distribution service, The item of "the number of distribution" which shows the number of the window equipment for image distribution, The item of "the image genre 1", the "image genre 2", and the "image genre 3" which show the class of image specified according to window equipment as a distribution hope, In case each one image for interiors of every belonging to an assignment image genre is specified according to window equipment and sequential distribution is carried out, it has each item of the "distribution time interval" which shows

the distribution timing. Moreover, as an item which shows individual humanity news, it has each item, such as a "user name", the "address", the "telephone number", and a "bank account."

[0020] The table 17 according to genre is a table which carries out the storage management of a background-image group or the advertising image group according to a genre according to the class, and memorizes the "background-image number" which shows each background image which belongs according to a genre at it, and the "advertising number" which shows each advertising image. The distribution hysteresis table 18 carries out the storage management of the distribution hysteresis which distributed the image by this time according to a contract user, and memorizes each image number which shows the image group [ finishing / distribution ] for interiors according to "user ID" of the distribution place which distributed the image, and each advertising number which shows an advertising group [ finishing / distribution ]. When the user who got interested in the distributed image wishes re-distribution of the image, the liking database 19 carries out registration management of the image of choice (liking image), likes it corresponding to "user ID", and has composition which can two or more memorize the "image number" of an image.

[0021] Drawing 5 is what showed the contents of the window managed table 6 prepared in the home server 2 side, and the window managed table 6 manages the present display information currently displayed on each window equipment, and has the composition of memorizing a "window device name", a "window ID", a "image number", and an "advertising number." In addition, the "image number" and the "advertising number" show the background image and advertising image by which it is indicated by current. Drawing 6 (A) is drawing having shown the display screen by the side of window equipment, and shows the example of a display when an advertisement is added to a background image. Here, a click of the "menu" currently displayed on the left corner section of this screen displays a user demand menu as shown in drawing 6 (B). In this demand menu screen, if eight kinds of menu items are displayed and user assignment of one of those menu items is carried out by the window equipment side, a home server 2 will transmit the demand of this assignment menu item to the system server 1.

[0022] Eight kinds of menu items currently displayed in the demand menu screen mentioned above With a "1:advertising menu", "2:images menu", "3:images change-over", "4:images selection", "5:advertising selection", "6:liking registration", "7:liking distribution", and a "8:raw image", in order to mention later about the detail, the contents of processing of each menu item are explained briefly here. The item of an "advertising menu" is the processing menu item which requires sending of an advertising menu, and the system server 1 creates each advertising list of the same genres as the advertisement distributed to the demand origin as an advertising menu, and he is trying to transmit. The item of a "image menu" is the processing menu item which requires distribution of the image belonging to the genre of arbitration, and when the own alternative of the genre of choice is made after transmitting the list of genres, he is trying for the system server 1 to transmit the image menu which makes a selection candidate two or more sample images belonging to the selection genre.

[0023] The item of a "image change-over" is the processing menu item which requires distribution of other images belonging to the same genre as the distributed image. That is, when an image current on display gets bored, it is the menu item of change-over display processing which is made to jump to other images and requires a change-over display. The item of "image selection" is the processing menu item which requires the related information of the image, when got interested in the distributed image. The item of "advertising selection" is the processing menu item which requires the related information of the advertisement, when a user gets interested in the distributed advertisement. The item of "liking registration" is a menu item of the registration processing which requires registration of the image, in order to wish subsequent re-distribution, when a user gets interested in the distributed image. Moreover, the item of "liking distribution" is a menu item of the re-message distribution processing which requires re-distribution of this registered image. The item of a "raw image" is the processing menu item which requires distribution of the raw image which photoed the site of the image, when a user gets interested in the distributed image.

[0024] Drawing 7 is the block diagram having shown the whole system server 1 configuration. In addition, fundamentally, since [ of the system server 1 ] it is the same, the component of a home server 2

also omits the explanation. CPU101 is arithmetic and program control which controls actuation by this whole system server 1 according to the operating system and the various application software in a store 102. The background-image file group 11 mentioned above besides an operating system or various application software, the image sample file group 12, the advertising image file group 13, the advertising related information file group 14, the image related information file group 15, the contract database 16, the table 17 according to genre, the distribution hysteresis table 18, and the liking database 19 are stored, and the store 102 has magnetic, optical, the record medium 103 constituted by semiconductor memory etc., and its drive system. This record medium 103 is a medium of portable molds, such as CD-ROM and the floppy disk with which it can equip free [ the fixed medium or fixed attachment and detachment of a hard disk etc. ], a RAM card, and a magnetic card. Moreover, if needed, it is loaded to RAM (for example, SUTATIKU RAM)104 by control of CPU1, or, as for the program and data in this record medium 103, the data in RAM104 are saved to a record medium 103. Furthermore, the record medium may be formed in the external instrument side, such as a server, and CPU101 can also use them through a transmission medium, carrying out direct access of the program/the data in this record medium.

[0025] Moreover, CPU101 can incorporate the part or all that is stored in a record medium 103 through a transmission medium from other devices side, and new registration or additional registration can also be carried out at a record medium 103. Furthermore, the storage management of a program/the data may be carried out by the external instrument side, such as a server, and CPU101 can also use them through a transmission medium, carrying out direct access of the program/the data by the side of an external instrument. On the other hand, the transmission control section 105 which is the I/O peripheral device, the input section 106, and a display 107 are connected to CPU101 through the bus line, and CPU101 controls those actuation according to a I / O program.

[0026] Next, it explains with reference to the flow chart which shows actuation of the image distribution system in this operation gestalt to drawing 8 - drawing 22 . Here, in the system server 1, the program for realizing each function described by these flow charts is stored in the record medium 103 with the gestalt of the program code which can be read, and CPU101 performs actuation according to this program code serially. Moreover, CPU101 can also perform serially actuation according to the above-mentioned program code transmitted through a transmission medium. That is, actuation peculiar to this operation gestalt can also be performed using the program/data by which external supply was carried out through the transmission medium besides a record medium. In addition, this is the same also about a home server 2.

[0027] The flow chart with which drawing 8 - drawing 14 showed the actuation by the side of a home server 2, drawing 15 - drawing 21 are the flow charts which showed the actuation by the side of the system server 1. Drawing 8 is the flow chart which showed the initialization process performed at a home server 2 side at the time of the use contract of image distribution service. First, the user using image distribution service performs processing which carries out an input setup of the identification information (window ID) corresponding to each window equipments A, B, and C which are installed in the house and which are the electronic equipment 4 with a display function (step A1). And it is received and displayed, when this is answered and the contract page for a contract application has been transmitted from the system server 1, after requiring contract access from the system server 1 through the network network 3 (step A2) in order to direct the use contract of image distribution service (step A3). In this contract page screen, a need matter (the contents of a contract and User Information) is inputted, and a letter is answered (step A4, A5).

[0028] Drawing 22 shows this contract page screen, and has each input area of "A:contract course", "B:image genre", "C:distribution time interval", and "D:User Information" in this page screen. The annunciator of the menu item of "a 1:charged course (with no advertisement)" and "a 2:free course (with an advertisement)" is carried out to "A:contract course", and a user does selection assignment of the contract course of hope. The input area of the "number of distribution" which shows the number of window equipment for distribution to "B:image genre", "The 1st set of the genre displayed according to the number of distribution set to this input area" If there is a class of image in which has each input area and a user does distribution hope for every window equipment for distribution of "the 2nd set of genres"



and "3rd set of genres" ....., the genre name will be inputted into a corresponding input area. Image distribution spacing which he wishes like one day and one week is inputted into "C:distribution time interval." "D: Input User Information of a "name", the "address", the "telephone number", and a "bank account" into User Information."

[0029] At the time of this use contract, the system server 1 answers contract access from a home server 2, and carries out activation initiation of the flow chart of drawing 15 . First, the system server 1 generates user ID, in order to register a user with a use application as a new member, if the contents of a contract which it was answered and have been answered are received after transmitting an above-mentioned contract page to the home server 2 of a requiring agency (step B1) (step B-2) (step B3). And the contract record of a first time user is generated based on the generated user ID and the received contents of a contract, and it registers to the contract database 16 (step B4).

[0030] Thus, if power-on of the window equipment of a house is carried out after the user who became a new member contracting, a home server 2 will carry out activation initiation of the actuation according to the flow chart of drawing 9 . First, a home server 2 performs the distribution demand of an image to the system server 1 (step A11). Then, it searches the contract database 16 based on this "telephone number", and reads an applicable user's contract record while the system server 1 answers this distribution access, carries out activation initiation of the flow chart of drawing 15 and acquires the "telephone number" of that demand origin out of a distribution demand (step B5) (step B6).

[0031] And the item of "the 1st set of a genre" is specified from the inside of this record. If the item data is read (step B7 of drawing 16 ), it investigates whether the genre name is set up in the assignment item (step B8) and the genre name is not set up After choosing a genre at random (step B9), move to the processing which searches the table 17 according to genre based on this selection genre, but (step B10) if the genre of choice is set up It moves to the processing which searches the table 17 according to genre based on the setting genre (step B10). In this case, each image number in [ classified by genre ] the table 17 corresponding to a genre is specified, and the image number which had not been distributed in the past as the addressing to a user concerned from that inside is elected. Namely, while reading every one image number in [ classified by genre ] the table 17 corresponding to this genre If whether the image number read from the table 17 according to genre is recorded in the distribution hysteresis table 18 with reference to the image number classified by user in the distribution hysteresis table 18 distinguishes and it is recorded The following image number is read from the table 17 according to genre, and above-mentioned actuation is repeated until the image number which is not recorded in the distribution hysteresis table 18 is searched hereafter. The image number which had not been distributed in the past as the addressing to a user concerned by this can be elected.

[0032] Next, the system server 1 will elect the advertising number which had not been distributed in the past as the addressing to a user concerned among the advertising numbers corresponding to a genre, if the contents of an item of a "distribution course" are acquired from a contract record, it distinguishes whether the free course with an advertisement is set up (step B11) and the course with an advertisement is set up (step B12). Also in this case, like \*\*\*\*, while reading every one advertising number in [ classified by genre ] the table 17 corresponding to this genre If whether the advertising number read from the table 17 according to genre is recorded in the distribution hysteresis table 18 with reference to the advertising number classified by user in the distribution hysteresis table 18 distinguishes and it is recorded The following advertising number is read from the table 17 according to genre, and above-mentioned actuation is repeated until the advertising number which is not recorded in the distribution hysteresis table 18 is searched hereafter. The advertising number which had not been distributed in the past as the addressing to a user concerned by this can be elected.

[0033] And the item data of "the number of distribution" are acquired from a contract record, and if distinguish (step B13) and it is [ whether there is any assignment for two or more sets, and ], it will distinguish whether processing for the number of assignment was ended (step B14). Now, since it is the phase which the election processing to the 1st window equipment ended, the 2nd set genre of setup is read from a contract record (step B15), and election processing of an above-mentioned background-image number and an advertising number is repeated hereafter (steps B8-B15). After the background-

image number for all the number and advertising number election processing are completed by this, while reading the background-image data which search the background-image file group 11 to step B16, and correspond to it based on each image number moved and elected. The advertising image data which searches the advertising image file group 13 and corresponds based on each elected advertising number is read, and advertising image data is transmitted to the home server 2 of a requiring agency with background-image data including the background-image number and an advertising number. That is, if the course with an advertisement is specified in this case, he is trying to transmit according to window equipment with a background image including advertising image data and an advertising number further, although the system server 1 transmits background-image data and its image number according to window equipment with a window ID.

[0034] Then, it investigates whether line disconnection occurred from the requiring agency (step B17). In this case, if a user cuts a circuit, the processing according to access from that user will be ended at this time, but while the circuit is connected, the processing demand from the home server 2 concerned is received, or a "distribution time interval" is read from (step B18) and the contract record concerned, and it investigates whether this setting spacing passed (step B19). In this case, if the processing demand from a user is detected, it will move to the processing according to those contents of a demand (flow of drawing 17 R > 7 - drawing 12 ). In addition, progress detection of a "distribution time interval" is performed by comparing the "distribution time interval" in a contract record with the measurement time amount of the timer according to user (not shown) which carried out the clear start, when an image is distributed last time. After distributing an image now and last time, when progress of the setup time is detected, image message distribution processing is performed by repeating return and above-mentioned actuation to step B7 (steps B7-B16). In this case, if a "distribution time interval" is one week, while image message distribution processing to the user concerned is performed periodically weekly, as a distributed part of this week, the background image distributed at last week, a different image from an advertisement, and an advertisement will be distributed. That is, although it belongs to the same genre, the image and advertisement which had not been distributed in the past are chosen and distributed.

[0035] The background-image data transmitted to a home server 2 side from the system server 1 on the other hand, If advertising image data etc. is received (step A12 of drawing 9 ), one of window equipments will be specified out of the distribution data for every window equipment which received. After extracting the background-image number and an advertising number, the window managed table 6 is accessed and the background-image number and an advertising number are set up in the window managed table 6 (step A13). And if it distinguishes whether the advertising image is added to the background image concerned (step A15) and there is an advertisement while the received background-image data are transmitted to corresponding appointed window equipment and carry out a display output (step A14), this advertising image data will be transmitted to appointed window equipment, and a synthetic indication will be given into a background image (step A16). Such window display processing is repeated by all the number, carrying out sequential assignment of each window equipment (steps A12-A17).

[0036] If it supervises whether a home server 2 has menu directions from one of window equipments after such window display processing is completed (step A18) and menu directions are detected, it will move to the processing according to the contents of a demand (flow of drawing 10 - drawing 14 ). Moreover, when it supervises whether there is any image distribution from the system server 1 (step A19) and the image has been distributed, above-mentioned window display processing (steps A12-A17) is repeated. Moreover, when it is supervising whether power-off of the window equipment under starting was carried out (step A20) and it carries out power-off, after intercepting a line connection with the system server 1 (step A21), transceiver processing with the system server 1 is ended at this time.

[0037] When there are menu directions from one of window equipments (i.e., when the "menu" carbon button of a window screen is operated) (step A18), here a home server 2 If the menu directions from that window equipment are received, while moving to the flow of drawing 10 and acquiring the window ID corresponding to the window equipment of a requiring agency (step A31), the window equipment of this demand origin is received. The display output of the user demand menu screen as shown in drawing 6

(B) is transmitted and carried out (step A32). Here, if selection assignment of one of the menu items is carried out out of this menu screen at the window equipment side of a requiring agency, a home server 2 will distinguish the selected contents of processing (step A33). When the item of a "1:advertising menu" is specified now, the window managed table 6 is accessed, the advertising number corresponding to window equipment of a requiring agency is acquired (step A34), and this advertising number is transmitted to the system server 1 with an advertising menu demand (step A35).

[0038] Then, if the contents of a demand from a home server 2 are received (step B18 of drawing 16 ), the system server 1 Although it moves to the flow of drawing 17 and the contents of a demand are distinguished (step B21) Since it is the case where the advertising menu demand has been transmitted now, it moves to step B22, and the advertising number transmitted with the advertising menu demand is received, the table 17 according to genre is accessed based on this advertising number, and the genre corresponding to an advertising number is specified (step B23). And this total advertising number corresponding to a genre is read, the advertising image file group 13 is accessed, and all the corresponding advertising images are acquired (step B24). A list of each advertising image acquired by this is created as an advertising menu page, and it transmits to the home server 2 of a requiring agency (step B25).

[0039] If this advertising menu page is received (step A36 of drawing 10 ), a home server 2 will serve as waiting for menu selection, after transmitting and carrying out the display output of the advertising menu page to the window equipment of a requiring agency (step A37) (step A38). Here, if selection assignment of one of the advertisements is carried out at a window equipment side, the selected advertising number will be received and it will transmit to the system server 1 (step A39). Then, the system server 1 receives the advertising number from a home server 2 (step B26 of drawing 17 ), searches the advertising related information file group 14 of correspondence based on this advertising number, reads the related information corresponding to an advertising number (step B27), creates an advertising information page, and transmits to the home server 2 of a requiring agency (step B28). Then, it returns to step B18 of drawing 16 . If this related information page corresponding to an advertising number is received (step A40), it will transmit to the window equipment of a requiring agency, and the display output of the home server 2 will be carried out (step A41). Then, it returns to step A18 of drawing 9 .

[0040] Moreover, when the item of "2:images menu" in a demand menu screen is specified as a window equipment side, a home server 2 transmits an image menu demand to the system server 1 (step A42 of drawing 11 ). The system server 1 will transmit the genre menu page which showed the list of image genres to the home server 2 of a requiring agency, if an image menu demand is received (step B29 of drawing 18 ). Then, a home server 2 receives this genre menu page (step A43), and after transmitting to the window equipment of a requiring agency and carrying out a display output (step A44), it serves as waiting for genre selection (step A45). In this condition, if selection assignment of one of the genres is carried out by the window equipment side, the selected genre will be received and it will transmit to the system server 1 (step A46).

[0041] The system server 1 searches the image sample file group 12 based on this image number group, and acquires each sample image while it will acquire the image number group which searches the table 17 according to genre and corresponds based on this genre, if a selection genre is received (step B30) (step B31). And a list of each of this sample image is created as an image menu page, and it transmits to the home server 2 of a requiring agency (step B32). If an image menu page is received (step A47), a home server 2 will serve as waiting for image selection, after transmitting and carrying out the display output of the image menu page to the window equipment of a requiring agency (step A48) (step A49).

[0042] In this condition, if selection assignment of one of the images is carried out by the window equipment side, the selected image number will be received and it will transmit to the system server 1 (step A50). Then, the system server 1 receives a selection image number (step B33), and searches the background-image file group 11 based on this selection image number, and the corresponding background-image data are read (step B34). And if it distinguishes whether the course with an advertisement is chosen (step B35) and the course with an advertisement is specified, the table 17

according to genre will be searched based on a selection genre, the advertising number which is not chosen from the inside as the past will be chosen, and the advertising image data concerned corresponding to an advertising number will be read from the advertising image file group 13 (step B36). And the read background-image data, the image number and advertising image data, and its advertising number are transmitted to the home server 2 of a requiring agency (step B37). Then, it returns to step B18 of drawing 16.

[0043] If the data distributed from the system server 1 are received (step A51), a home server 2 will extract an image number and an advertising number from those contents of distribution, will match them with the window equipment of a requiring agency, and will set this image number and an advertising number as the window managed table 6 (step A52). And when advertising image data also receives, it transmits to the window equipment of (step A54) and this advertising image data demand-origin, and the background image concerned is made to indicate by addition, after it transmits the received background-image data to the window equipment of a requiring agency and they carry out a display output (step A53) (step A55). Then, it returns to step A18 of drawing 9.

[0044] Moreover, when the item of "3:images change-over" in a user demand menu screen is specified, while a home server 2 searches the window managed table 6 based on the window equipment of a requiring agency and acquiring the image number corresponding to a window (step A56 of drawing 12), the acquired image number is transmitted to the system server 1 with an image change-over demand (step A57). When an image change-over demand is received, the system server 1 receives an image number from that inside (step B38 of drawing 19), specifies the genre which searches the table 17 according to genre and corresponds based on this image number (step B39), and specifies the following image number out of the image number group in this specific genre (step B40). And if it is a course with an advertisement while moving to the same image read-out message distribution processing as \*\*\*\* (steps B34-B37) and reading this background image corresponding to an image number, advertising image data will be read and distributed. In this case, after moving to the same image display processing as \*\*\*\* (steps A51-A55) and performing setting processing to the window managed table 6 to a home server 2 side, the display process of a background image and the display process of an advertising image are performed.

[0045] Moreover, when the item of "4:images selection" in a user demand menu screen is specified, while a home server 2 searches the window managed table 6 based on the window equipment of a requiring agency and acquiring the image number corresponding to a window (step A58 of drawing 12), the acquired image number is transmitted to the system server 1 with an image selection demand (step A59). When an image selection demand is received, it receives an image number from that inside (step B41), and the system server 1 reads the related information which searches the image related information file group 15, and corresponds based on this image number (step B42), creates an image information page, and transmits to the home server 2 of a requiring agency (step B43). In this case, in a home server 2 side, if it moves to the same processing as the time of receiving the advertising information page mentioned above and an image information page is received (step A40 of drawing 10), it will be transmitted to the window equipment of a requiring agency, and will carry out a display output (step A41).

[0046] Moreover, when the item of "5:advertising selection" in a user demand menu screen is specified, while a home server 2 searches the window managed table 6 based on the window equipment of a requiring agency and acquiring the advertising number corresponding to a window (step A61 of drawing 13), the acquired advertising number is transmitted to the system server 1 with an advertising selection demand (step A62). If an advertising number is received (step B51 of drawing 20), it moves to the same processing as \*\*\*\* (steps B27 and B28 of drawing 17), and a home server 2 reads this related information corresponding to an advertising number, will create an information page and will transmit. In this case, in a home server 2 side, if an advertising information page is received (step A40 of drawing 10), it will be transmitted to the window equipment of a requiring agency, and will carry out a display output (step A41).

[0047] Moreover, when the item of "6:liking registration" in a user demand menu screen is specified, a

home server 2 likes the acquired image number, and transmits to the system server 1 with a registration demand while searching the window managed table 6 based on the window equipment of a requiring agency and acquiring the image number corresponding to a window (step A63 of drawing 13) (step A64). It matches with this user ID, and a home server 2 likes the received image number, and registers it into a database 19 while it will acquire the user ID which searches the contract database 16 and corresponds based on a requiring agency user's telephone number, if this image number is received (step B-52 of drawing 20) (step B53).

[0048] When the item of "7:liking distribution" in a user demand menu screen is specified after such liking registration, a home server 2 transmits a liking distribution demand to the system server 1 (step A65 of drawing 13). Then, the system server 1 is liked based on this user ID, searches a database 19, and reads each corresponding image number while it acquires the user ID which searches the contract database 16 and corresponds based on a requiring agency user's telephone number (step B54). And the image sample file group 12 is accessed based on each of this image number, and a sample image group is acquired (step B55). And it moves to the same processing as \*\*\*\* (step B32 of drawing 18), and the image menu page which shows the list of sample image groups is created, and it transmits. If an image menu page is received (step A66 of drawing 13), a home server 2 will perform image selection processing, selection image display processing, etc., after it moves to the same processing as \*\*\*\* (step A48 of drawing 11) and performs display processing of an image menu page (steps A49-A55). In this case, the system server 1 performs image read-out processing, transmitting processing, etc. which answered this (steps B33-B37 of drawing 18).

[0049] Moreover, when the item of the "8:raw image" in a user demand menu screen is specified, while a home server 2 searches the window managed table 6 based on the window equipment of a requiring agency and acquiring the image number corresponding to a window (step A67 of drawing 14), the acquired image number is transmitted to the system server 1 with a raw image demand (step A68). The system server 1 transmits to real time by making the acquired camera image into a live-broadcast image to the home server 2 of a requiring agency while acquiring the camera image after it accesses the camera equipment 7 for live broadcast matched with the image number concerned through the network network 3 and directs photography initiation if an image number is received (step B56 of drawing 21) (step B57) (step B58). Then, the existence of the line disconnection from the home server 2 of a requiring agency is supervised, or (step B59) and termination demand existence are supervised (step B60), and transmission of return and a live-broadcast image is continued to step B57 until it detects line disconnection and a termination demand. Here, when it becomes processing termination at this time when line disconnection is detected, and a termination demand is received, it returns to step B18 of drawing 16.

[0050] This live-broadcast image will be transmitted to the window equipment of a requiring agency, and a home server 2 will carry out a display output, if a live-broadcast image is received (step A69 of drawing 14) (step A70). Then, when the power-off from the window equipment concerned is supervised, or the actuation existence of (step A71) and a return carbon button (not shown) is supervised (step A73) and power-off is detected, a home server 2 cuts connection with the system server 1, is ended, but (step A72) when a return carbon button is operated, it transmits a termination demand to the system server 1 (step A77).

[0051] In this operation gestalt as mentioned above, the system server 1 The storage management of the contents of a contract is carried out according to the contract user who performed the use contract of distribution service. When making sequential selection of each image for interiors for each contract users out of the background-image file group 11 and carrying out automatic distribution to the home server 2, Since the image for interiors which was not distributed in the past was distributed preferentially That is, in case the high image for interiors of hobby nature is distributed via a network It suits as the contents of a contract which performed the use contract of distribution service at liking of the contract user. Since it was made to carry out sequential distribution only of the image which had not been distributed in the past, if an image [ finishing / distribution ] can prevent distributing and a tab has it to a contract user, the always fresh image for interiors to which \*\* does not come can be enjoyed.

[0052] Since the contract of the assignment existence of an image genre was enabled as the contents of a

contract according to hope according to the contract user who performed the use contract of distribution service, when the image for interiors in the assignment genre which suited liking of a contract user when the image genre was specified can be enjoyed and the image genre is not specified, regardless of a genre, the wide range, various images for interiors can enjoy. Only by requiring that image registration, if interested in the image [ finishing / distribution ] for interiors, since it was made to carry out registration preservation of that image for interiors, after that, re-distribution of this registered image can be required at any time, and a favorite image can be enjoyed repeatedly. Furthermore, since the live-broadcast image will be immediately distributed if the live-broadcast image of the photography location of the image is required when interested in the image [ finishing / distribution ] for interiors, another way beyond a frame called an interior of enjoying oneself can be obtained.

[0053] moreover, since only the image for interiors which belongs as the contents of a contract which performed the use contract of distribution service at an assignment genre was periodically distributed with the appointed time interval, the image for interiors suitable for liking of the contract user is periodically changed into each window equipment by the side of a contract user, and it displays -- having -- \*\*\*\* -- there are nothings and the distribution service according to hope can receive.

[0054] moreover -- since only the fresh image which had not been distributed in the past was periodically distributed with the appointed time interval while carrying out coincidence distribution of two or more images for interiors separately displayed as the contents of a contract which performed the use contract of distribution service corresponding to two or more window equipments by the side of the contract user -- \*\*\*\* -- there are nothings and two or more images for interiors can be enjoyed to coincidence.

[0055] since a home server 2 receives two or more images for interiors distributed as the contents of a contract which performed the use contract of distribution service from the system server 1 and it was made to display separately on the other hand corresponding to two or more window equipments by the side of the contract user concerned -- \*\*\*\* -- there are nothings and two or more images for interiors can be enjoyed to coincidence. In this case, since the demand origin concerned transmitted non-distributed the image for interiors or image related information which specifies an image current on display, transmits those contents of a demand to the system server 1, and is transmitted to that demand origin from the system server 1 while detecting the demand from window equipment, the display control according to the demand by the side of window equipment of a home server 2 becomes possible. Moreover, when the image for interiors which is the dynamic-image file which can reproduce a dynamic image has been distributed, since animation playback of this dynamic-image file is carried out and it was made to transmit to window equipment, even if a home server 2 is window equipment without an animation regenerative function, it can enjoy an animation.

[0056] In addition, since a sponsor advertisement is added and transmitted to each image for interiors distributed, if a contract user has, the image for interiors of the high quality which should serve as charged contents essentially can be enjoyed for free. In addition, if an advertiser has, since it is an advertisement to a background image, an effect of advertising is very high and can expect the increment in an advertising request. Moreover, since the advertisement belonging to the same advertising genre as the image genre concerned is extracted and it was made to add when adding a sponsor advertisement to each image for interiors chosen according to the image genre corresponding to the contract user, an effective advertisement is attained to the user who got interested in the image. Moreover, since other images for interiors applicable to the contents of a demand are acquired and were distributed when an image change request was received from window equipment Other images other than the distributed image can come to hand immediately, and can be enjoyed, and since the related information corresponding to the image for interiors is acquired and it was made to transmit to the demand origin, when got interested in a distribution image, the detailed information can come to hand immediately.

[0057] in addition, the \*\* which does not use the Internet in the operation gestalt mentioned above although the contents of a contract were transmitted to the system server 1 via the Internet from the home server 2 at the time of the use contract of distribution service -- the contents of a contract -- mailing -- it may be made to carry out facsimile transmission. Moreover, although the home server 2

transmitted the received image for interiors to each window equipments A, B, and C through the inside-of-a-house network 5, you may make it the system server 1 distribute the image for interiors to a cellular-phone terminal directly through a mobile communication system network in the operation gestalt mentioned above, if the system server 1 distributes the image for interiors to a home server 2. That is, the image for interiors may be an image for the waiting screens of a cellular-phone terminal. [0058] Moreover, in the operation gestalt mentioned above, although two or more images for interiors separately displayed corresponding to two or more window equipments by the side of a contract user were periodically distributed with the time interval specified by a user, this time interval may be specified for every window equipment. That is, a distribution time interval may be specified that it differs for every window equipment.

[0059] Moreover, a landscape image or not only a pictures image but in case you may be a portrait image, for example, the contract user registers the family photograph into the system server 1 side beforehand and it distributes periodically the various images for interiors for the contract users concerned, you may make it distribute the family photograph as some images for interiors as an image for interiors. That is, you may make it the image for interiors distributed sometimes distribute the image which what [ not only ] was prepared by the service contractor side but the user offered. Moreover, it may be made to carry out sequential distribution of the synthetic image which compounded the image which the user offered in the image for interiors prepared by the service contractor side as an image for interiors for the contract users concerned.

[0060]

[Effect of the Invention] In case the high image for interiors of hobby nature is distributed via a network according to the 1st invention It suits as the contents of a contract which performed the use contract of distribution service at liking of the user. Sequential distribution only of the fresh image which had not been distributed in the past can be carried out, and if an image [ finishing / distribution ] can prevent distributing and a tab has it to a contract user, it becomes possible to enjoy the always fresh image for interiors to which \*\* does not come. In case the high image for interiors of hobby nature is distributed via a network according to the 2nd invention Only the image which belongs as the contents of a contract which performed the use contract of distribution service at the assignment genre suitable for liking of the user can be periodically distributed with the appointed time interval. the image for interiors suitable for liking of the contract user is periodically changed into each display by the side of a contract user, and displays on it -- having -- \*\*\*\* -- there are nothings and the distribution service according to hope can be received. the time interval of assignment of only the fresh image which had not been distributed in the past while being able to carry out coincidence distribution of two or more images for interiors separately displayed as the contents of a contract which performed the use contract of distribution service corresponding to two or more displays by the side of the user according to the 3rd invention -- periodical -- it can distribute -- \*\*\*\* -- there are nothings and two or more images for interiors can be enjoyed to coincidence. According to the 4th invention, the image display control terminal which enabled it to display separately two or more images for interiors distributed as the contents of a contract which performed the use contract of distribution service corresponding to two or more displays by the side of the user concerned can be offered.

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[Translation done.]

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PRIOR ART

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[Description of the Prior Art] In recent years, anyone can receive various kinds of services now easily using the Internet with the advancement of the Internet technique, and low-pricing of a computer terminal or a telex rate by calling the server equipment by the side of a contractor from the computer terminal of each home. Moreover, in mobile communication system, also besides using for a voice message, use of an electronic mail or the Internet also becomes possible and the opportunity of a cellular-phone terminal to use a cellular-phone terminal as information communication media has also been increasing. By the way, by using the Internet conventionally, various images, such as a photograph for wallpaper and a background image (screen saver image) of a computer screen, are downloaded and used for the computer terminal of each home, or the thing which is awaited and was used as an object for screens is known in the background image by which daily distribution is carried out to a cellular-phone terminal.

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[Translation done.]



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TECHNICAL FIELD

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[Field of the Invention] This invention relates to the image distribution system or the image distribution approach of offering distribution service which distributes an image through a network, image display control terminals, or those program documentation media.

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**EFFECT OF THE INVENTION**

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[Effect of the Invention] In case the high image for interiors of hobby nature is distributed via a network according to the 1st invention It suits as the contents of a contract which performed the use contract of distribution service at liking of the user. Sequential distribution only of the fresh image which had not been distributed in the past can be carried out, and if an image [ finishing / distribution ] can prevent distributing and a tab has it to a contract user, it becomes possible to enjoy the always fresh image for interiors to which \*\* does not come. In case the high image for interiors of hobby nature is distributed via a network according to the 2nd invention Only the image which belongs as the contents of a contract which performed the use contract of distribution service at the assignment genre suitable for liking of the user can be periodically distributed with the appointed time interval. the image for interiors suitable for liking of the contract user is periodically changed into each display by the side of a contract user, and displays on it -- having -- \*\*\*\* -- there are nothings and the distribution service according to hope can be received. the time interval of assignment of only the fresh image which had not been distributed in the past while being able to carry out coincidence distribution of two or more images for interiors separately displayed as the contents of a contract which performed the use contract of distribution service corresponding to two or more displays by the side of the user according to the 3rd invention -- periodical -- it can distribute -- \*\*\*\* -- there are nothings and two or more images for interiors can be enjoyed to coincidence. According to the 4th invention, the image display control terminal which enabled it to display separately two or more images for interiors distributed as the contents of a contract which performed the use contract of distribution service corresponding to two or more displays by the side of the user concerned can be offered.

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**TECHNICAL PROBLEM**

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[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] However, when downloading the photograph and screen saver image for wallpaper, he is trying to choose a desired image from the image group as a selection candidate beforehand, but whenever it downloaded the desired image, troublesome selection had to be performed and the big burden was applied to the user. Moreover, although he is trying to distribute the same images all at once to each user when awaiting to each user's cellular-phone terminal and carrying out automatic distribution of the image for screens, the image which did not necessarily restrict that it was an image suitable for liking of a user, and received distribution in the past might be transmitted repeatedly. By the way, a miniaturization and thin shape-ization of the television receiver of a liquid crystal display mold progress, and although the television receiver called a flat TV is also beginning to spread, as for this flat TV, not only the tool with which it views and listens to a TV program the more the more that price becomes cheap but the use as an interior tool which displays a landscape image and a pictures image is expected.

[0004] In case the technical problem of the 1st invention distributes the high image for interiors of hobby nature via a network, it is offer the image distribution system or the image distribution approach which could be made to carry out sequential distribution only of the fresh image which suits liking of the user and had not be distributed as the contents of a contract which performed the use contract of distribution service in the past. In case the technical problem of the 2nd invention distributes the high image for interiors of hobby nature via a network, it is offering the image distribution system or the image distribution approach which enabled it to distribute periodically only the image which belongs as the contents of a contract which performed the use contract of distribution service at the assignment genre suitable for liking of the user with the appointed time interval. the technical problem of the 3rd invention be offering the image distribution system or the image distribution approach which enabled it to distribute periodically only the fresh image which had not be distributed in the past with the appointed time interval while being able to carry out coincidence distribution of two or more images for interiors separately display as the contents of a contract which performed the use contract of distribution service corresponding to two or more displays by the side of the user. The technical problem of the 4th invention is offering the image display control terminal which enabled it to display separately two or more images for interiors distributed as the contents of a contract which performed the use contract of distribution service corresponding to two or more displays by the side of the user concerned.

[0005] The means of this invention is as follows. The image storage means which invention (1st invention) of the 1st publication of a claim is an image distribution system which comes to have image distribution equipment which offers image distribution service through a network, and carries out the storage management of two or more images for interiors, The image for interiors which should be distributed to each contract user who performed the use contract of distribution service is chosen. The distribution hysteresis storage means which carries out the storage management of the distribution hysteresis of the distributed image for interiors according to a contract user when it distributes to the assignment terminal specified by each contract user concerned, In case sequential distribution of the image for interiors is carried out to said each contract user, with reference to said distribution hysteresis

storage means, the image for interiors which had not been chosen in the past is chosen according to a contract user, and the distribution control means distributed to the assignment terminal specified by each contract user concerned is provided. Therefore, in invention according to claim 1, in case the high image for interiors of hobby nature is distributed via a network, liking of the user is suited and the image distribution system which could be made to carry out sequential distribution only of the fresh image which had not been distributed in the past can be offered as the contents of a contract which performed the use contract of distribution service. Moreover, as application invention to the 1st invention, while offering the image distribution approach, the record medium which recorded the program code for performing each function mentioned above to the computer, respectively is offered.

[0006] In addition, this 1st invention may be as follows.

(1) Match said each image for interiors with the image genre which shows the class, and classification management is carried out. In case each image for interiors which should carry out sequential distribution to said each contract user is chosen and distributed, when the image genre is specified as the contents of a contract When the image for interiors extracted out of each image group for interiors belonging to the assignment genre is distributed and the image genre is not specified as the contents of a contract The image genre of arbitration is chosen and the image for interiors extracted out of each image group for interiors belonging to the genre is distributed.

(2) When that demand is answered, storage maintenance of the image for interiors concerned is carried out as that registered image corresponding to an assignment terminal, when the registration demand of the image concerned has been transmitted through a network from said assignment terminal which received distribution of said image for interiors, and the distribution demand of a registered image is received from the assignment terminal concerned, read this registered image corresponding to an assignment terminal, and distribute to the terminal of a requiring agency.

(3) When the distribution demand of a raw image has been transmitted through a network from said assignment terminal which received distribution of said image for interiors, distribute to said assignment terminal of demand-live-broadcast image which acquired live-broadcast image from photography equipment currently installed in location which photoed image [ finishing / the distribution concerned ] for interiors, and was acquired from said photography equipment origin on real time.

[0007] Invention (2nd invention) of the 6th publication of a claim is an image distribution system which comes to have image distribution equipment which offers image distribution service through a network. The image storage means which matches with the image genre which shows the class of image, and classifies and carries out the storage management of two or more images for interiors, The distribution contract storage means which carries out the storage management of the contents of a contract according to the contract user who performed the use contract of distribution service, In case each image for interiors which should carry out sequential distribution according to the contents of a contract is chosen to said each contract user Based on the image genre specified as those contents of a contract, the image for interiors concerned corresponding to a genre is chosen, and the distribution control means which distributes this selected image for interiors to said assignment terminal with the distribution time interval specified as those contents of a contract is provided. Therefore, in invention according to claim 6, in case the high image for interiors of hobby nature is distributed via a network, the image distribution system which enabled it to distribute periodically only the image which belongs as the contents of a contract which performed the use contract of distribution service at the assignment genre suitable for liking of the user with the appointed time interval can be offered. Moreover, as application invention to the 2nd invention, while offering the image distribution approach, the record medium which recorded the program code for performing each function mentioned above to the computer, respectively is offered.

[0008] The image storage means which invention (3rd invention) of the 8th publication of a claim is an image distribution system which comes to have image distribution equipment which offers image distribution service through a network, and carries out the storage management of two or more images for interiors, The distribution contract storage means which carries out the storage management of the contents of a contract according to the contract user who performed the use contract of distribution

service, In case the image for interiors which should be distributed to said each contract user is chosen, when coincidence distribution of two or more images is specified as the contents of a contract Choose the image for interiors for several of the contract minutes, and when progress of predetermined time is detected from the last distribution after distributing to the assignment terminal specified by the contract user concerned, the image for interiors for several non-distributed contract minutes is chosen to the contract user concerned. The image distribution means which repeats the distribution actuation distributed to said assignment terminal is provided. Therefore, in invention according to claim 8, while being able to carry out coincidence distribution of two or more images for interiors separately displayed as the contents of a contract which performed the use contract of distribution service corresponding to two or more displays by the side of the user, the image distribution system which enabled it to distribute periodically only the fresh image which had not been distributed in the past with the appointed time interval can be offered. Moreover, as application invention to the 3rd invention, while offering the image distribution approach, the record medium which recorded the program code for performing each function mentioned above to the computer, respectively is offered.

[0009] While connecting with the image distribution system which offers service which distributes an image through a public network, invention (4th invention) of the 10th publication of a claim A receiving means to receive two or more images for interiors which are the image display control terminals by the side of the service user connected to two or more indicating equipments through the inside-of-a-house network, and have been distributed according to the use contract of image distribution service, That destination is specified for each [ which received with this receiving means ] image for interiors of every, and an image transfer means to transmit the image for interiors which corresponds to said two or more displays is provided. Therefore, in invention according to claim 4, the image display control terminal which enabled it to display separately two or more images for interiors distributed as the contents of a contract which performed the use contract of distribution service corresponding to two or more displays by the side of the user concerned can be offered. Moreover, the record medium which recorded the program code for performing each function mentioned above to the computer as application invention to the 4th invention, respectively is offered.

[0010] In addition, this 4th invention may be as follows.

(1) The identification information storage means which matches the transmitted image identification information with the destination, and carries out a storage management whenever it transmits the image for interiors which corresponds to said two or more displays, When one of the display demands is received among said two or more displays, by searching said identification information storage means The image for interiors by which it is indicated by current is specified as the display of the demand origin. Establish an identification information acquisition means to acquire that image identification information, and the image identification information acquired with this identification information acquisition means is transmitted to said image distribution system. When non-distributed the image for interiors or image related information has been distributed from said image distribution system to the display of said demand origin, the image for interiors or image related information which is not distributed [ this ] is transmitted to the display of the demand origin concerned.

(2) Said image for interiors is the dynamic-image file which can reproduce a dynamic image, and when this dynamic-image file has been distributed, it carries out animation playback of this dynamic-image file, and transmit it to said display.

[0011]

[Embodiment of the Invention] Hereafter, 1 operation gestalt of this invention is explained with reference to drawing 1 - drawing 22 . In addition, this operation gestalt shows concretely the 1st and 2nd invention mentioned above. Drawing 1 is the block diagram having shown the whole image distribution system configuration in this operation gestalt. Anyone builds available broader-based communication system (image distribution system) using the Internet by this image distribution system's offering image distribution service which distributes the high image for interiors of hobby nature like the photograph for wallpaper, the screen saver image of a computer terminal, the landscape image displayed on a flat TV, or a pictures image, and developing such a service enterprise on a scale of the whole country.

[0012] And this image distribution system carries out the storage management of those contents of a contract according to the contract user who performed the use contract of this image distribution service, and it is made to carry out sequential distribution of each selected image for interiors to the assignment terminal specified by each contract user while it chooses each image for interiors which followed those contents of a contract through the Internet. In this case, when add a sponsor advertisement, you are trying to distribute it to the image for interiors and an image with an advertisement is distributed, that advertiser is made to pay that charge of use instead of a user in this operation gestalt, although image distribution is usually a charge. That is, the contract user is offering service which makes free offer, without charging the charge of distribution to the user, when distribution of the image for interiors with an advertisement is received.

[0013] The image display control device 2 for home use by the side of the user using this distribution service (home server) is connected to the image distribution equipment 1 by the side of the service operating company who offers image distribution service (image distribution system server) through the network network (Internet) 3. Various kinds of electronic equipment 4 (the window equipments A, B, and C are called hereafter) with a display function arranged domestic, such as a computer terminal and a flat TV, is connected to the home server 2 through the inside-of-a-house network 5, and a home server 2 performs the display control to each window equipments A, B, and C with reference to the contents of the window managed table 6 which manages the current contents of a display of the window equipments A, B, and C. In this case, the image distribution system server 1 compresses image data, and transmits, and a home server 2 thaws this compressed data, and he is trying to transmit it to each window equipment. That is, when the image for interiors is the dynamic-image file which can reproduce a dynamic image and this dynamic-image file has been distributed, a home server 2 carries out animation playback of this dynamic-image file, and he is trying to transmit it to window equipment.

[0014] When carrying out sequential distribution of the image for interiors, the image distribution system server 1 chooses every one fresh image for interiors which had not been distributed according to window equipment in the past for every (for example, day by day [ 1 ]) fixed time interval, and he is trying to distribute it as the contents of a contract which performed the use contract of distribution service periodically to a home server 2. That is, while carrying out coincidence distribution of two or more images for interiors separately displayed corresponding to two or more window equipments by the side of a contract user, he is trying to distribute periodically only the fresh image which had not been distributed in the past with the appointed time interval. in this case , when an interrupt request occur from one window equipment of the contract user sides concerned in the condition of the contract distribution which distribute the image for the interiors according to window periodically , the system server 1 perform interruption processing according to that demand as the contents of a contract , and he be try to transmit to it the data which followed the contents of a demand at addressing to window equipment of a require agency besides periodical contract distribution . A home server 2 will assign and display each image for interiors on corresponding window equipment, if each image for interiors for a window unit count is received. In addition, the camera equipment 7 for live broadcast is connected to the image distribution system server 1 through the network network 3. When the image for interiors is for example, a landscape image, the site of that scenery is photoed, it transmits to the image distribution system server 1 and the raw image of that scenery is demanded of viewing and listening by the user, he is trying for the system server 1 to transmit the camera equipment 7 for this live broadcast to the home server 2 of that demand origin.

[0015] Drawing 2 is drawing having shown various kinds of file groups prepared in the system server 1 side, in the image sample file group 12 and (C), the advertising image file group 13 and (D) show the advertising related information file group 14, and, as for the background-image file group 11 and (B), (E) shows [ (A) ] the contents of the image related information file group 15. Corresponding to an image number, various kinds of images for interiors are memorized in a 1 file 1 image format, and as each image for interiors, the background-image file groups 11 are a static image and a dynamic image, and are quality images suitable as an image for interiors. In addition, the contents of the background-image file group 11 take \*\*\*\*\* into consideration, freely, can be added and can change it.

[0016] The image sample file group 12 is matched with the contents of the background-image file group 11, and the sample image which are the outline of each image for interiors and its part matches it with an image number, and it is memorized. This sample image is information read in case a user is guided as an image selection candidate instead of the corresponding image for interiors. The advertising image file group 13 memorizes the advertising image which is added to the image for interiors and distributed, and various kinds of advertising images are memorized in the 1 file 1 image format corresponding to the advertising number. In addition, the advertising image was beforehand offered by the advertiser, receives an advertising image via the Internet, and he is trying to register it into the advertising image file group 13.

[0017] The advertising related information file group 14 memorizes the advertising related information corresponding to each advertisement in the advertising image file group 13, and memorizes various kinds of guidance information for explaining advertising goods and the contents of service to a detail for example, corresponding to an advertising number. The image related information file group 15 memorizes the image related information corresponding to each image in the background-image file group 11, and memorizes the guidance information to which the image for interiors guides the location of the scenery, history, and sightseeing information in the case of scenery or pictures, or it shows a creator, a price, etc. corresponding to an image number.

[0018] Drawing 3 and drawing 4 are drawings having shown the database and table of the various kinds prepared in the system server 1 side, in the contract database 16 and (B), the table 17 according to genre and drawing 4 (A) show the distribution hysteresis table 18, and (B) shows [ drawing 3 (A) ] the contents of the liking database 19. The contract database 16 carries out the storage management of the individual humanity news according to the contract user who performed the use contract of image distribution service with the contents of a contract, and the record has the composition of having each item shown below.

[0019] Namely, the item of the "user ID" which is the identification information of the contract user proper concerned as an item which shows the contents of a contract, The item of the "distribution course" which the user specified as arbitration among the use gestalten (charged course a free course with an advertisement, and in which it does not advertise) of image distribution service, The item of "the number of distribution" which shows the number of the window equipment for image distribution, The item of "the image genre 1", the "image genre 2", and the "image genre 3" which show the class of image specified according to window equipment as a distribution hope, In case each one image for interiors of every belonging to an assignment image genre is specified according to window equipment and sequential distribution is carried out, it has each item of the "distribution time interval" which shows the distribution timing. Moreover, as an item which shows individual humanity news, it has each item, such as a "user name", the "address", the "telephone number", and a "bank account."

[0020] The table 17 according to genre is a table which carries out the storage management of a background-image group or the advertising image group according to a genre according to the class, and memorizes the "background-image number" which shows each background image which belongs according to a genre at it, and the "advertising number" which shows each advertising image. The distribution hysteresis table 18 carries out the storage management of the distribution hysteresis which distributed the image by this time according to a contract user, and memorizes each image number which shows the image group [ finishing / distribution ] for interiors according to "user ID" of the distribution place which distributed the image, and each advertising number which shows an advertising group [ finishing / distribution ]. When the user who got interested in the distributed image wishes re-distribution of the image, the liking database 19 carries out registration management of the image of choice (liking image), likes it corresponding to "user ID", and has composition which can two or more memorize the "image number" of an image.

[0021] Drawing 5 is what showed the contents of the window managed table 6 prepared in the home server 2 side, and the window managed table 6 manages the present display information currently displayed on each window equipment, and has the composition of memorizing a "window device name", a "window ID", a "image number", and an "advertising number." In addition, the "image number" and

the "advertising number" show the background image and advertising image by which it is indicated by current. Drawing 6 (A) is drawing having shown the display screen by the side of window equipment, and shows the example of a display when an advertisement is added to a background image. Here, a click of the "menu" currently displayed on the left corner section of this screen displays a user demand menu as shown in drawing 6 (B). In this demand menu screen, if eight kinds of menu items are displayed and user assignment of one of those menu items is carried out by the window equipment side, a home server 2 will transmit the demand of this assignment menu item to the system server 1.

[0022] Eight kinds of menu items currently displayed in the demand menu screen mentioned above With a "1:advertising menu", "2:images menu", "3:images change-over", "4:images selection", "5:advertising selection", "6:liking registration", "7:liking distribution", and a "8:raw image", in order to mention later about the detail, the contents of processing of each menu item are explained briefly here. The item of an "advertising menu" is the processing menu item which requires sending of an advertising menu, and the system server 1 creates each advertising list of the same genres as the advertisement distributed to the demand origin as an advertising menu, and he is trying to transmit. The item of a "image menu" is the processing menu item which requires distribution of the image belonging to the genre of arbitration, and when the own alternative of the genre of choice is made after transmitting the list of genres, he is trying for the system server 1 to transmit the image menu which makes a selection candidate two or more sample images belonging to the selection genre.

[0023] The item of a "image change-over" is the processing menu item which requires distribution of other images belonging to the same genre as the distributed image. That is, when an image current on display gets bored, it is the menu item of change-over display processing which is made to jump to other images and requires a change-over display. The item of "image selection" is the processing menu item which requires the related information of the image, when got interested in the distributed image. The item of "advertising selection" is the processing menu item which requires the related information of the advertisement, when a user gets interested in the distributed advertisement. The item of "liking registration" is a menu item of the registration processing which requires registration of the image, in order to wish subsequent re-distribution, when a user gets interested in the distributed image. Moreover, the item of "liking distribution" is a menu item of the re-message distribution processing which requires re-distribution of this registered image. The item of a "raw image" is the processing menu item which requires distribution of the raw image which photoed the site of the image, when a user gets interested in the distributed image.

[0024] Drawing 7 is the block diagram having shown the whole system server 1 configuration. In addition, fundamentally, since [ of the system server 1 ] it is the same, the component of a home server 2 also omits the explanation. CPU101 is arithmetic and program control which controls actuation by this whole system server 1 according to the operating system and the various application software in a store 102. The background-image file group 11 mentioned above besides an operating system or various application software, the image sample file group 12, the advertising image file group 13, the advertising related information file group 14, the image related information file group 15, the contract database 16, the table 17 according to genre, the distribution hysteresis table 18, and the liking database 19 are stored, and the store 102 has magnetic, optical, the record medium 103 constituted by semiconductor memory etc., and its drive system. This record medium 103 is a medium of portable molds, such as CD-ROM and the floppy disk with which it can equip free [ the fixed medium or fixed attachment and detachment of a hard disk etc. ], a RAM card, and a magnetic card. Moreover, if needed, it is loaded to RAM (for example, SUTATIKU RAM)104 by control of CPU1, or, as for the program and data in this record medium 103, the data in RAM104 are saved to a record medium 103. Furthermore, the record medium may be formed in the external instrument side, such as a server, and CPU101 can also use them through a transmission medium, carrying out direct access of the program/the data in this record medium.

[0025] Moreover, CPU101 can incorporate the part or all that is stored in a record medium 103 through a transmission medium from other devices side, and new registration or additional registration can also be carried out at a record medium 103. Furthermore, the storage management of a program/the data may be carried out by the external instrument side, such as a server, and CPU101 can also use them through a



transmission medium, carrying out direct access of the program/the data by the side of an external instrument. On the other hand, the transmission control section 105 which is the I/O peripheral device, the input section 106, and a display 107 are connected to CPU101 through the bus line, and CPU101 controls those actuation according to a I / O program.

[0026] Next, it explains with reference to the flow chart which shows actuation of the image distribution system in this operation gestalt to drawing 8 - drawing 22. Here, in the system server 1, the program for realizing each function described by these flow charts is stored in the record medium 103 with the gestalt of the program code which can be read, and CPU101 performs actuation according to this program code serially. Moreover, CPU101 can also perform serially actuation according to the above-mentioned program code transmitted through a transmission medium. That is, actuation peculiar to this operation gestalt can also be performed using the program/data by which external supply was carried out through the transmission medium besides a record medium. In addition, this is the same also about a home server 2.

[0027] The flow chart with which drawing 8 - drawing 14 showed the actuation by the side of a home server 2, drawing 15 - drawing 21 are the flow charts which showed the actuation by the side of the system server 1. Drawing 8 is the flow chart which showed the initialization process performed at a home server 2 side at the time of the use contract of image distribution service. First, the user using image distribution service performs processing which carries out an input setup of the identification information (window ID) corresponding to each window equipments A, B, and C which are installed in the house and which are the electronic equipment 4 with a display function (step A1). And it is received and displayed, when this is answered and the contract page for a contract application has been transmitted from the system server 1, after requiring contract access from the system server 1 through the network network 3 (step A2) in order to direct the use contract of image distribution service (step A3). In this contract page screen, a need matter (the contents of a contract and User Information) is inputted, and a letter is answered (step A4, A5).

[0028] Drawing 22 shows this contract page screen, and has each input area of "A:contract course", "B:image genre", "C:distribution time interval", and "D:User Information" in this page screen. The annunciator of the menu item of "a 1:charged course (with no advertisement)" and "a 2:free course (with an advertisement)" is carried out to "A:contract course", and a user does selection assignment of the contract course of hope. The input area of the "number of distribution" which shows the number of window equipment for distribution to "B:image genre", "The 1st set of the genre displayed according to the number of distribution set to this input area" If there is a class of image in which has each input area and a user does distribution hope for every window equipment for distribution of "the 2nd set of genres" and "3rd set of genres" ....., the genre name will be inputted into a corresponding input area. Image distribution spacing which he wishes like one day and one week is inputted into "C:distribution time interval." "D: Input User Information of a "name", the "address", the "telephone number", and a "bank account" into User Information."

[0029] At the time of this use contract, the system server 1 answers contract access from a home server 2, and carries out activation initiation of the flow chart of drawing 15. First, the system server 1 generates user ID, in order to register a user with a use application as a new member, if the contents of a contract which it was answered and have been answered are received after transmitting an above-mentioned contract page to the home server 2 of a requiring agency (step B1) (step B-2) (step B3). And the contract record of a first time user is generated based on the generated user ID and the received contents of a contract, and it registers to the contract database 16 (step B4).

[0030] Thus, if power-on of the window equipment of a house is carried out after the user who became a new member contracting, a home server 2 will carry out activation initiation of the actuation according to the flow chart of drawing 9. First, a home server 2 performs the distribution demand of an image to the system server 1 (step A11). Then, it searches the contract database 16 based on this "telephone number", and reads an applicable user's contract record while the system server 1 answers this distribution access, carries out activation initiation of the flow chart of drawing 15 and acquires the "telephone number" of that demand origin out of a distribution demand (step B5) (step B6).

[0031] And the item of "the 1st set of a genre" is specified from the inside of this record. If the item data is read (step B7 of drawing 16), it investigates whether the genre name is set up in the assignment item (step B8) and the genre name is not set up. After choosing a genre at random (step B9), move to the processing which searches the table 17 according to genre based on this selection genre, but (step B10) if the genre of choice is set up. It moves to the processing which searches the table 17 according to genre based on the setting genre (step B10). In this case, each image number in [classified by genre] the table 17 corresponding to a genre is specified, and the image number which had not been distributed in the past as the addressing to a user concerned from that inside is elected. Namely, while reading every one image number in [classified by genre] the table 17 corresponding to this genre. If whether the image number read from the table 17 according to genre is recorded in the distribution hysteresis table 18 with reference to the image number classified by user in the distribution hysteresis table 18 distinguishes and it is recorded. The following image number is read from the table 17 according to genre, and above-mentioned actuation is repeated until the image number which is not recorded in the distribution hysteresis table 18 is searched hereafter. The image number which had not been distributed in the past as the addressing to a user concerned by this can be elected.

[0032] Next, the system server 1 will elect the advertising number which had not been distributed in the past as the addressing to a user concerned among the advertising numbers corresponding to a genre, if the contents of an item of a "distribution course" are acquired from a contract record, it distinguishes whether the free course with an advertisement is set up (step B11) and the course with an advertisement is set up (step B12). Also in this case, like \*\*\*\*, while reading every one advertising number in [classified by genre] the table 17 corresponding to this genre. If whether the advertising number read from the table 17 according to genre is recorded in the distribution hysteresis table 18 with reference to the advertising number classified by user in the distribution hysteresis table 18 distinguishes and it is recorded. The following advertising number is read from the table 17 according to genre, and above-mentioned actuation is repeated until the advertising number which is not recorded in the distribution hysteresis table 18 is searched hereafter. The advertising number which had not been distributed in the past as the addressing to a user concerned by this can be elected.

[0033] And the item data of "the number of distribution" are acquired from a contract record, and if distinguish (step B13) and it is [whether there is any assignment for two or more sets, and], it will distinguish whether processing for the number of assignment was ended (step B14). Now, since it is the phase which the election processing to the 1st window equipment ended, the 2nd set genre of setup is read from a contract record (step B15), and election processing of an above-mentioned background-image number and an advertising number is repeated hereafter (steps B8-B15). After the background-image number for all the number and advertising number election processing are completed by this, while reading the background-image data which search the background-image file group 11 to step B16, and correspond to it based on each image number moved and elected. The advertising image data which searches the advertising image file group 13 and corresponds based on each elected advertising number is read, and advertising image data is transmitted to the home server 2 of a requiring agency with background-image data including the background-image number and an advertising number. That is, if the course with an advertisement is specified in this case, he is trying to transmit according to window equipment with a background image including advertising image data and an advertising number further, although the system server 1 transmits background-image data and its image number according to window equipment with a window ID.

[0034] Then, it investigates whether line disconnection occurred from the requiring agency (step B17). In this case, if a user cuts a circuit, the processing according to access from that user will be ended at this time, but while the circuit is connected, the processing demand from the home server 2 concerned is received, or a "distribution time interval" is read from (step B18) and the contract record concerned, and it investigates whether this setting spacing passed (step B19). In this case, if the processing demand from a user is detected, it will move to the processing according to those contents of a demand (flow of drawing 17 R> 7 - drawing 12). In addition, progress detection of a "distribution time interval" is performed by comparing the "distribution time interval" in a contract record with the measurement time

amount of the timer according to user (not shown) which carried out the clear start, when an image is distributed last time. After distributing an image now and last time, when progress of the setup time is detected, image message distribution processing is performed by repeating return and above-mentioned actuation to step B7 (steps B7-B16). In this case, if a "distribution time interval" is one week, while image message distribution processing to the user concerned is performed periodically weekly, as a distributed part of this week, the background image distributed at last week, a different image from an advertisement, and an advertisement will be distributed. That is, although it belongs to the same genre, the image and advertisement which had not been distributed in the past are chosen and distributed.

[0035] The background-image data transmitted to a home server 2 side from the system server 1 on the other hand, If advertising image data etc. is received (step A12 of drawing 9 ), one of window equipments will be specified out of the distribution data for every window equipment which received. After extracting the background-image number and an advertising number, the window managed table 6 is accessed and the background-image number and an advertising number are set up in the window managed table 6 (step A13). And if it distinguishes whether the advertising image is added to the background image concerned (step A15) and there is an advertisement while the received background-image data are transmitted to corresponding appointed window equipment and carry out a display output (step A14), this advertising image data will be transmitted to appointed window equipment, and a synthetic indication will be given into a background image (step A16). Such window display processing is repeated by all the number, carrying out sequential assignment of each window equipment (steps A12-A17).

[0036] If it supervises whether a home server 2 has menu directions from one of window equipments after such window display processing is completed (step A18) and menu directions are detected, it will move to the processing according to the contents of a demand (flow of drawing 10 - drawing 14 ). Moreover, when it supervises whether there is any image distribution from the system server 1 (step A19) and the image has been distributed, above-mentioned window display processing (steps A12-A17) is repeated. Moreover, when it is supervising whether power-off of the window equipment under starting was carried out (step A20) and it carries out power-off, after intercepting a line connection with the system server 1 (step A21), transceiver processing with the system server 1 is ended at this time.

[0037] When there are menu directions from one of window equipments (i.e., when the "menu" carbon button of a window screen is operated) (step A18), here a home server 2 If the menu directions from that window equipment are received, while moving to the flow of drawing 10 and acquiring the window ID corresponding to the window equipment of a requiring agency (step A31), the window equipment of this demand origin is received. The display output of the user demand menu screen as shown in drawing 6 (B) is transmitted and carried out (step A32). Here, if selection assignment of one of the menu items is carried out out of this menu screen at the window equipment side of a requiring agency, a home server 2 will distinguish the selected contents of processing (step A33). When the item of a "1:advertising menu" is specified now, the window managed table 6 is accessed, the advertising number corresponding to window equipment of a requiring agency is acquired (step A34), and this advertising number is transmitted to the system server 1 with an advertising menu demand (step A35).

[0038] Then, if the contents of a demand from a home server 2 are received (step B18 of drawing 16 ), the system server 1 Although it moves to the flow of drawing 17 and the contents of a demand are distinguished (step B21) Since it is the case where the advertising menu demand has been transmitted now, it moves to step B22, and the advertising number transmitted with the advertising menu demand is received, the table 17 according to genre is accessed based on this advertising number, and the genre corresponding to an advertising number is specified (step B23). And this total advertising number corresponding to a genre is read, the advertising image file group 13 is accessed, and all the corresponding advertising images are acquired (step B24). A list of each advertising image acquired by this is created as an advertising menu page, and it transmits to the home server 2 of a requiring agency (step B25).

[0039] If this advertising menu page is received (step A36 of drawing 10 ), a home server 2 will serve as waiting for menu selection, after transmitting and carrying out the display output of the advertising

menu page to the window equipment of a requiring agency (step A37) (step A38). Here, if selection assignment of one of the advertisements is carried out at a window equipment side, the selected advertising number will be received and it will transmit to the system server 1 (step A39). Then, the system server 1 receives the advertising number from a home server 2 (step B26 of drawing 17), searches the advertising related information file group 14 of correspondence based on this advertising number, reads the related information corresponding to an advertising number (step B27), creates an advertising information page, and transmits to the home server 2 of a requiring agency (step B28). Then, it returns to step B18 of drawing 16. If this related information page corresponding to an advertising number is received (step A40), it will transmit to the window equipment of a requiring agency, and the display output of the home server 2 will be carried out (step A41). Then, it returns to step A18 of drawing 9.

[0040] Moreover, when the item of "2:images menu" in a demand menu screen is specified as a window equipment side, a home server 2 transmits an image menu demand to the system server 1 (step A42 of drawing 11). The system server 1 will transmit the genre menu page which showed the list of image genres to the home server 2 of a requiring agency, if an image menu demand is received (step B29 of drawing 18). Then, a home server 2 receives this genre menu page (step A43), and after transmitting to the window equipment of a requiring agency and carrying out a display output (step A44), it serves as waiting for genre selection (step A45). In this condition, if selection assignment of one of the genres is carried out by the window equipment side, the selected genre will be received and it will transmit to the system server 1 (step A46).

[0041] The system server 1 searches the image sample file group 12 based on this image number group, and acquires each sample image while it will acquire the image number group which searches the table 17 according to genre and corresponds based on this genre, if a selection genre is received (step B30) (step B31). And a list of each of this sample image is created as an image menu page, and it transmits to the home server 2 of a requiring agency (step B32). If an image menu page is received (step A47), a home server 2 will serve as waiting for image selection, after transmitting and carrying out the display output of the image menu page to the window equipment of a requiring agency (step A48) (step A49).

[0042] In this condition, if selection assignment of one of the images is carried out by the window equipment side, the selected image number will be received and it will transmit to the system server 1 (step A50). Then, the system server 1 receives a selection image number (step B33), and searches the background-image file group 11 based on this selection image number, and the corresponding background-image data are read (step B34). And if it distinguishes whether the course with an advertisement is chosen (step B35) and the course with an advertisement is specified, the table 17 according to genre will be searched based on a selection genre, the advertising number which is not chosen from the inside as the past will be chosen, and the advertising image data concerned corresponding to an advertising number will be read from the advertising image file group 13 (step B36). And the read background-image data, the image number and advertising image data, and its advertising number are transmitted to the home server 2 of a requiring agency (step B37). Then, it returns to step B18 of drawing 16.

[0043] If the data distributed from the system server 1 are received (step A51), a home server 2 will extract an image number and an advertising number from those contents of distribution, will match them with the window equipment of a requiring agency, and will set this image number and an advertising number as the window managed table 6 (step A52). And when advertising image data also receives, it transmits to the window equipment of (step A54) and this advertising image data demand-origin, and the background image concerned is made to indicate by addition, after it transmits the received background-image data to the window equipment of a requiring agency and they carry out a display output (step A53) (step A55). Then, it returns to step A18 of drawing 9.

[0044] Moreover, when the item of "3:images change-over" in a user demand menu screen is specified, while a home server 2 searches the window managed table 6 based on the window equipment of a requiring agency and acquiring the image number corresponding to a window (step A56 of drawing 12), the acquired image number is transmitted to the system server 1 with an image change-over demand

(step A57). When an image change-over demand is received, the system server 1 receives an image number from that inside (step B38 of drawing 19 ), specifies the genre which searches the table 17 according to genre and corresponds based on this image number (step B39), and specifies the following image number out of the image number group in this specific genre (step B40). And if it is a course with an advertisement while moving to the same image read-out message distribution processing as \*\*\*\* (steps B34-B37) and reading this background image corresponding to an image number, advertising image data will be read and distributed. In this case, after moving to the same image display processing as \*\*\*\* (steps A51-A55) and performing setting processing to the window managed table 6 to a home server 2 side, the display process of a background image and the display process of an advertising image are performed.

[0045] Moreover, when the item of "4:images selection" in a user demand menu screen is specified, while a home server 2 searches the window managed table 6 based on the window equipment of a requiring agency and acquiring the image number corresponding to a window (step A58 of drawing 12 ), the acquired image number is transmitted to the system server 1 with an image selection demand (step A59). When an image selection demand is received, it receives an image number from that inside (step B41), and the system server 1 reads the related information which searches the image related information file group 15, and corresponds based on this image number (step B42), creates an image information page, and transmits to the home server 2 of a requiring agency (step B43). In this case, in a home server 2 side, if it moves to the same processing as the time of receiving the advertising information page mentioned above and an image information page is received (step A40 of drawing 10 ), it will be transmitted to the window equipment of a requiring agency, and will carry out a display output (step A41).

[0046] Moreover, when the item of "5:advertising selection" in a user demand menu screen is specified, while a home server 2 searches the window managed table 6 based on the window equipment of a requiring agency and acquiring the advertising number corresponding to a window (step A61 of drawing 13 ), the acquired advertising number is transmitted to the system server 1 with an advertising selection demand (step A62). If an advertising number is received (step B51 of drawing 20 ), it moves to the same processing as \*\*\*\* (steps B27 and B28 of drawing 17 ), and a home server 2 reads this related information corresponding to an advertising number, will create an information page and will transmit. In this case, in a home server 2 side, if an advertising information page is received (step A40 of drawing 10 ), it will be transmitted to the window equipment of a requiring agency, and will carry out a display output (step A41).

[0047] Moreover, when the item of "6:liking registration" in a user demand menu screen is specified, a home server 2 likes the acquired image number, and transmits to the system server 1 with a registration demand while searching the window managed table 6 based on the window equipment of a requiring agency and acquiring the image number corresponding to a window (step A63 of drawing 13 ) (step A64). It matches with this user ID, and a home server 2 likes the received image number, and registers it into a database 19 while it will acquire the user ID which searches the contract database 16 and corresponds based on a requiring agency user's telephone number, if this image number is received (step B-52 of drawing 20 ) (step B53).

[0048] When the item of "7:liking distribution" in a user demand menu screen is specified after such liking registration, a home server 2 transmits a liking distribution demand to the system server 1 (step A65 of drawing 13 ). Then, the system server 1 is liked based on this user ID, searches a database 19, and reads each corresponding image number while it acquires the user ID which searches the contract database 16 and corresponds based on a requiring agency user's telephone number (step B54). And the image sample file group 12 is accessed based on each of this image number, and a sample image group is acquired (step B55). And it moves to the same processing as \*\*\*\* (step B32 of drawing 18 ), and the image menu page which shows the list of sample image groups is created, and it transmits. If an image menu page is received (step A66 of drawing 13 ), a home server 2 will perform image selection processing, selection image display processing, etc., after it moves to the same processing as \*\*\*\* (step A48 of drawing 11 ) and performs display processing of an image menu page (steps A49-A55). In this

case, the system server 1 performs image read-out processing, transmitting processing, etc. which answered this (steps B33-B37 of drawing 18 ).

[0049] Moreover, when the item of the "8:raw image" in a user demand menu screen is specified, while a home server 2 searches the window managed table 6 based on the window equipment of a requiring agency and acquiring the image number corresponding to a window (step A67 of drawing 14 ), the acquired image number is transmitted to the system server 1 with a raw image demand (step A68). The system server 1 transmits to real time by making the acquired camera image into a live-broadcast image to the home server 2 of a requiring agency while acquiring the camera image after it accesses the camera equipment 7 for live broadcast matched with the image number concerned through the network network 3 and directs photography initiation if an image number is received (step B56 of drawing 21 ) (step B57) (step B58). Then, the existence of the line disconnection from the home server 2 of a requiring agency is supervised, or (step B59) and termination demand existence are supervised (step B60), and transmission of return and a live-broadcast image is continued to step B57 until it detects line disconnection and a termination demand. Here, when it becomes processing termination at this time when line disconnection is detected, and a termination demand is received, it returns to step B18 of drawing 16 .

[0050] This live-broadcast image will be transmitted to the window equipment of a requiring agency, and a home server 2 will carry out a display output, if a live-broadcast image is received (step A69 of drawing 14 ) (step A70). Then, when the power-off from the window equipment concerned is supervised, or the actuation existence of (step A71) and a return carbon button (not shown) is supervised (step A73) and power-off is detected, a home server 2 cuts connection with the system server 1, is ended, but (step A72) when a return carbon button is operated, it transmits a termination demand to the system server 1 (step A77).

[0051] In this operation gestalt as mentioned above, the system server 1 The storage management of the contents of a contract is carried out according to the contract user who performed the use contract of distribution service. When making sequential selection of each image for interiors for each contract users out of the background-image file group 11 and carrying out automatic distribution to the home server 2, Since the image for interiors which was not distributed in the past was distributed preferentially That is, in case the high image for interiors of hobby nature is distributed via a network It suits as the contents of a contract which performed the use contract of distribution service at liking of the contract user. Since it was made to carry out sequential distribution only of the image which had not been distributed in the past, if an image [ finishing / distribution ] can prevent distributing and a tab has it to a contract user, the always fresh image for interiors to which \*\* does not come can be enjoyed.

[0052] Since the contract of the assignment existence of an image genre was enabled as the contents of a contract according to hope according to the contract user who performed the use contract of distribution service, when the image for interiors in the assignment genre which suited liking of a contract user when the image genre was specified can be enjoyed and the image genre is not specified, regardless of a genre, the wide range, various images for interiors can enjoy. Only by requiring that image registration, if interested in the image [ finishing / distribution ] for interiors, since it was made to carry out registration preservation of that image for interiors, after that, re-distribution of this registered image can be required at any time, and a favorite image can be enjoyed repeatedly. Furthermore, since the live-broadcast image will be immediately distributed if the live-broadcast image of the photography location of the image is required when interested in the image [ finishing / distribution ] for interiors, another way beyond a frame called an interior of enjoying oneself can be obtained.

[0053] moreover, since only the image for interiors which belongs as the contents of a contract which performed the use contract of distribution service at an assignment genre was periodically distributed with the appointed time interval, the image for interiors suitable for liking of the contract user is periodically changed into each window equipment by the side of a contract user, and it displays -- having -- \*\*\*\* -- there are nothings and the distribution service according to hope can receive.

[0054] moreover -- since only the fresh image which had not been distributed in the past was periodically distributed with the appointed time interval while carrying out coincidence distribution of two or more images for interiors separately displayed as the contents of a contract which performed the

use contract of distribution service corresponding to two or more window equipments by the side of the contract user -- \*\*\*\* -- there are nothings and two or more images for interiors can be enjoyed to coincidence.

[0055] since a home server 2 receives two or more images for interiors distributed as the contents of a contract which performed the use contract of distribution service from the system server 1 and it was made to display separately on the other hand corresponding to two or more window equipments by the side of the contract user concerned -- \*\*\*\* -- there are nothings and two or more images for interiors can be enjoyed to coincidence. In this case, since the demand origin concerned transmitted non-distributed the image for interiors or image related information which specifies an image current on display, transmits those contents of a demand to the system server 1, and is transmitted to that demand origin from the system server 1 while detecting the demand from window equipment, the display control according to the demand by the side of window equipment of a home server 2 becomes possible. Moreover, when the image for interiors which is the dynamic-image file which can reproduce a dynamic image has been distributed, since animation playback of this dynamic-image file is carried out and it was made to transmit to window equipment, even if a home server 2 is window equipment without an animation regenerative function, it can enjoy an animation.

[0056] In addition, since a sponsor advertisement is added and transmitted to each image for interiors distributed, if a contract user has, the image for interiors of the high quality which should serve as charged contents essentially can be enjoyed for free. In addition, if an advertiser has, since it is an advertisement to a background image, an effect of advertising is very high and can expect the increment in an advertising request. Moreover, since the advertisement belonging to the same advertising genre as the image genre concerned is extracted and it was made to add when adding a sponsor advertisement to each image for interiors chosen according to the image genre corresponding to the contract user, an effective advertisement is attained to the user who got interested in the image. Moreover, since other images for interiors applicable to the contents of a demand are acquired and were distributed when an image change request was received from window equipment Other images other than the distributed image can come to hand immediately, and can be enjoyed, and since the related information corresponding to the image for interiors is acquired and it was made to transmit to the demand origin, when got interested in a distribution image, the detailed information can come to hand immediately.

[0057] in addition, the \*\* which does not use the Internet in the operation gestalt mentioned above although the contents of a contract were transmitted to the system server 1 via the Internet from the home server 2 at the time of the use contract of distribution service -- the contents of a contract -- mailing -- it may be made to carry out facsimile transmission. Moreover, although the home server 2 transmitted the received image for interiors to each window equipments A, B, and C through the inside-of-a-house network 5, you may make it the system server 1 distribute the image for interiors to a cellular-phone terminal directly through a mobile communication system network in the operation gestalt mentioned above, if the system server 1 distributes the image for interiors to a home server 2. That is, the image for interiors may be an image for the waiting screens of a cellular-phone terminal.

[0058] Moreover, in the operation gestalt mentioned above, although two or more images for interiors separately displayed corresponding to two or more window equipments by the side of a contract user were periodically distributed with the time interval specified by a user, this time interval may be specified for every window equipment. That is, a distribution time interval may be specified that it differs for every window equipment.

[0059] Moreover, a landscape image or not only a pictures image but in case you may be a portrait image, for example, the contract user registers the family photograph into the system server 1 side beforehand and it distributes periodically the various images for interiors for the contract users concerned, you may make it distribute the family photograph as some images for interiors as an image for interiors. That is, you may make it the image for interiors distributed sometimes distribute the image which what [ not only ] was prepared by the service contractor side but the user offered. Moreover, it may be made to carry out sequential distribution of the synthetic image which compounded the image which the user offered in the image for interiors prepared by the service contractor side as an image for

interiors for the contract users concerned.

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[Translation done.]



**\* NOTICES \***

JPO and NCIPi are not responsible for any damages caused by the use of this translation.

- 1.This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely.
- 2.\*\*\*\* shows the word which can not be translated.
- 3.In the drawings, any words are not translated.

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**DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS**

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**[Brief Description of the Drawings]**

[Drawing 1] The block diagram having shown the whole image distribution system configuration.

[Drawing 2] For the background-image file group 11 and (B), (A) is [ the image sample file group 12 and (C) ] drawing in which the advertising image file group 13 and (D) showed the advertising related information file group 14, and (E) showed the contents of the image related information file group 15.

[Drawing 3] It is drawing in which (A) showed the contract database 16 and (B) showed the contents of the table 17 according to genre.

[Drawing 4] It is drawing in which (A) showed the distribution hysteresis table 18, and (B) showed the contents of the liking database 19.

[Drawing 5] Drawing having shown the contents of the window managed table 6 prepared in the home server 2 side.

[Drawing 6] For (A), drawing having shown the display screen by the side of window equipment and (B) are drawing having shown the user demand menu screen.

[Drawing 7] The block diagram having shown the whole system server 1 configuration.

[Drawing 8] The flow chart which showed the initialization process performed at a home server 2 side at the time of the use contract of image distribution service.

[Drawing 9] The flow chart which showed the actuation by the side of the home server 2 by which activation initiation is carried out when power-on of the window equipment of a house is carried out.

[Drawing 10] The flow chart which showed the actuation by the side of a home server 2 following drawing 9 .

[Drawing 11] The flow chart which showed the actuation by the side of a home server 2 following drawing 10 .

[Drawing 12] The flow chart which showed the actuation by the side of a home server 2 following drawing 11 .

[Drawing 13] The flow chart which showed the actuation by the side of a home server 2 following drawing 12 .

[Drawing 14] The flow chart which showed the actuation by the side of a home server 2 following drawing 13 .


[Drawing 15] The flow chart which showed the actuation by which activation initiation is carried out by the system server 1 side at the time of contract access from a home server 2, and distribution access.

[Drawing 16] The flow chart which showed the actuation by the side of the system server 1 following drawing 15 .

[Drawing 17] The flow chart which showed the actuation by the side of the system server 1 following drawing 16 .

[Drawing 18] The flow chart which showed the actuation by the side of the system server 1 following drawing 17 .

[Drawing 19] The flow chart which showed the actuation by the side of the system server 1 following drawing 18 .

[Drawing 20] The flow chart which showed the actuation by the side of the system server 1 following drawing .

[Drawing 21] The flow chart which showed the actuation by the side of the system server 1 following drawing 20 .

[Drawing 22] Drawing having shown the contract page screen.

[Description of Notations]

1 System Server

2 Home Server

3 Network Network

4 Electronic Equipment with Display Function (Window Equipment)

5 Inside-of-a-House Network

6 Window Managed Table

7 Camera Equipment for Live Broadcast

11 Background-Image File Group

12 Image Sample File Group

13 Advertising Image File Group

14 Advertising Related Information File Group

15 Image Related Information File Group

16 Contract Database

17 Table according to Genre

18 Distribution Hysteresis Table

19 Liking Database

101 CPU

102 Storage

103 Record Medium

105 Transmission Control Section

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[Translation done.]